



# THE TIMES

35P

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£150m bill for killing 'at risk' cattle

## Beef export ban remains despite cull

By Philip Webster and Charlie's Bremner

EUROPE told Britain yesterday that the world ban on British beef would remain in force indefinitely, in spite of the Government's decision to slaughter 100,000 cattle most at risk from "mad cow" disease.

Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, said the Government was going ahead with the £150 million cull — first mooted in July and then suspended in September — because it was the only way to make any progress on lifting the ban. "It is a political fact, not a scientific fact," he told MPs. "If we do not commit ourselves to a selective cull, then we are certain not to see any progress of any kind."

But even before his Commons statement, the European Commission ruled out any swift lifting of the ban, and one senior Conservative predicted that it could last for years.

Franz Fischler, the Farm Commissioner, made clear that Britain must go through all the EU's decision-making hurdles before there could be any softening of the embargo. And Mr Hogg, who will meet fellow farm ministers in Brussels today, admitted that Britain would not secure a timetable. He told MPs that they "should not be under any illusion as to how quickly a selective cull will lead to a resumption of exports of British beef."

Mr Fischler said that he had not been told officially about Britain's decision to cull an extra 100,000 cattle and it was up to the Government to put forward a detailed request to start the machinery agreed at the Florence summit in June. "I don't see any need to depart from what was agreed upon," he said. "I think we need to move forward step by step as agreed."

That means that a British request, probably to ease the ban on grass-fed herds certi-

fied as BSE-free, must pass through various committees including the Standing Veterinary Committee. At best, that could take weeks.

Euro-sceptics were glum about the announcement, seeing it as another U-turn in the face of Brussels pressure. John Townend said: "Many of us just don't trust our European friends and we think they are going to keep this ban going for year after year."

But Sir David Naish, president of the National Farmers' Union, welcomed the announcement, while calling for extra financial help for farmers who would lose a substantial proportion of their herds. "We are not happy at the idea of many thousands of healthy animals being culled," he said. "But we have long accepted that the Florence agreement had to be honoured by Britain and that this was the only way to start lifting the export ban."

A few farmers could lose up to half or more of their herds under the selective cull. Under the proposals published last July, the Government envisaged paying the market price for culled cattle with extra money for farmers who lose 10 per cent or more of their herds. The Treasury will pick up £90

million of the compensation bill and the EU the rest.

The decision to go ahead with the cull after all was announced as ministers tried to avoid a defeat in last night's Commons vote on fishing, where the result appeared to hinge on the Ulster Unionists. They were pleased by the beef decision but unimpressed by assurances that ministers would seek higher fish quotas for Northern Ireland.

The decision also coincided with the Prime Minister's report on the European summit in Dublin, in which he told MPs that the Community was facing a "moment of truth". It was a delusion to think that Britain could exist outside the EU, but the country under his leadership would have no part of Franco-German plans that would lead to an "embryonic superstate".

He signalled that radical changes proposed by some members would be either blocked or would go ahead without British involvement. The choices over the next few months would determine not only the success and stability of Europe as a whole, but Britain's relationship with it.

Although he criticised those who "peddled the delusion" that Britain could leave the EU, John Major appeared to hint at an arms-length relationship if an inner core of countries went ahead with elements of political union that Britain opposed. "Those who want to integrate further in particular areas should not be frustrated unreasonably although, if they wish to use EU institutions (such as the European Court of Justice), they can only proceed through unanimity. Those who do not must not be forced into unwished for obligations which build up resentment."

Matthew Parris and BSE about-turn, page 2  
Leading article, page 15



"I'll vote for anybody if it means getting a larger fish quota"



Mark Boyden and Princess Zahra: they met in France two years ago and are expected to marry in the summer

## Aga Khan's daughter to wed Briton

By Carol Midgley and Susan Bell

PRINCESS Zahra, the only daughter of the Aga Khan, has become engaged to a farmer's son from Dorset, it was announced yesterday.

Mark Boyden, 35, a management consultant who is also involved with his parents' farming business, met the princess through friends two years ago in France. They are expected to marry next summer.

The Aga Khan announced the engagement yesterday in a notice issued by his secretariat in Aiglemont, near Chantilly, France. Mr Boyden's mother, Patricia, said: "We are delighted, very happy indeed, but we have been asked to refer all queries to the Aga Khan's office."

from where their business, Boyden Brothers, is run. Mrs Boyden added that she and her husband John knew the princess well. "We don't yet know the date for the wedding though," she said.

Mr Boyden is a former pupil of the now defunct Dartington Hall School, in Dartington, Devon. He studied business administration at Oxford Brookes University, focusing particularly on business ethics and human rights, before becoming a management consultant.

Princess Zahra, 26, the oldest of the Aga Khan and Princess Salimah's three children, has worked for her father, leader of the world's four million Ismaili Muslims and directly descended from the Prophet Mohammed,

since graduating from Harvard University in 1994.

The announcement said she was "actively involved in social development activities, focusing particularly on women's development and the provision of safety nets for the very poor in Africa and Asia."

She and Mr Boyden will divide their time between England and France and the princess will continue to work for her father.

Recently she followed in his footsteps by becoming involved in racehorse ownership, registering her own dark green and brown colours. Her parents divorced last year with an estimated £50 million settlement for her mother, the former model Sally Croker-Poole, 56. Mr Boyden has one older sister, Jo, who is under-

stood to be working as an academic in Oxford.

Princess Zahra has two brothers, Prince Rahim, 25, and Prince Hussain, 22. A family friend was once quoted as saying: "Zahra has easily the nicest personality of the three children and while Rahim will eventually succeed their father she will be a great asset. She has a tremendous sense of humour and is a lot of fun to be with."

## Williams car chiefs face trial for death of Senna

FROM RICHARD OWEN  
IN ROME

FRANK WILLIAMS, head of the Formula One Williams team, is to be tried for the manslaughter of Ayrton Senna, the Brazilian world champion, who was killed in the San Marino Grand Prix two and a half years ago.

State prosecutors in Bologna announced the charges yesterday against Mr Williams, along with Patrick Head, the company's technical director, and Adrian Newey, the chief designer. They will stand trial on February 20. Also charged with manslaughter are Federico Bendinelli, the Imola race track director, Giorgio Poggi, a former track official, and Roland Bruynseraede, the international race director. All deny the charges.

Under Italian law the accused stand to receive sentences of between six months and five years in prison if convicted. Maurizio Passarini, the Bologna public prosecutor, recommended the prosecution in a preliminary report in June, after a two-year inquest. Bologna magistrates accepted his arguments.

Senna died on May 1 1994 when he took the Tamborello turn at the Imola race track at 188 mph. A technical experts' report said the steering column on his car had been "modified" shortly before the race to give him more space behind the wheel. The report said the metal used was of a different thickness to the original high resistance material, and had snapped.

Senna's car hit the wall of the track and he suffered fatal head injuries. Part of the forward suspension pierced his helmet "as if he had been shot by a bullet", the investigators report said.

Formula 1 in chaos, page 40

### Judges urged to quit Freemasons

Judges are facing calls to resign from the Freemasons, or at least publicly state their membership, after fresh evidence on the extent of the "brotherhood" within the judiciary. The information has been gathered by the 500-strong Association of Women Barristers. Page 4

### Threat to shares

Halifax Building Society shares could be hit by a FTSE 100 listing delay. Page 21

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## Smoking fathers may cause cancer

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

ONE in seven of all childhood cancers may be caused by fathers who smoke, a new study has shown. The more a man smokes, the greater the risk becomes.

Strong evidence of the damaging effects of smoking has come from data gathered more than 40 years ago and re-examined by a team from Birmingham University. It showed a "highly significant" association between fathers who smoked and children who died of cancer, says Dr Tom Sorahan of the university.

ty's Institute of Occupational Health. The assumption is that smoking causes cancer in children by damaging their father's sperm.

"Men smoking less than ten cigarettes a day have a 3 per cent higher chance of fathering a child who dies of cancer," Dr Sorahan said yesterday. "For those smoking between 10 and 20 cigarettes a day, the increased risk is 31 per cent, and it rises to 42 per cent for fathers who smoke more than 20 a day."

Anti-smoking campaigners

seized on the new figures. A spokeswoman for Action on Smoking and Health said: "Women have known for a long time that by smoking during pregnancy they are damaging the health of their unborn babies. Now men will have to accept that by smoking they are not only putting their own health at risk, but also that of their children as well."

The tobacco industry is likely to argue that the increased risk is so small as to be statistically meaningless. Last summer Philip Morris Europe

ran an advertising campaign arguing that passive smoking — the risks of which are of the same order as those found by the new study — is not a proper cause for concern.

Sir Richard Doll of Oxford University, the doyen of smoking studies who first linked smoking to lung cancer, was cautious in interpreting the results. "It's a good study, but the statistics are not all that compelling," he said. "Other studies on the subject have

Continued on page 2, col 5

## Sir Laurens, mentor to Prince, dies

Sir Laurens van der Post, the writer, explorer, mystic and a major influence on the Prince of Wales, has died two days after his ninetieth birthday, (Alan Hamilton writes).

The Prince's office said last night that he had been "deeply saddened" by the death of a dear and long-standing friend, Lucia Crichton-Miller, Sir Laurens's daughter, said her father died at his London home on Sunday.

Obituary, page 17

## Amis switches publishers in mid-contract for £1m

By Daiya Alberge and Jason Cowley

MARTIN AMIS has fallen out with the publishing house that offered him a record-breaking £500,000 contract less than a year ago. He has signed a four-book deal with his original publisher, Jonathan Cape, an imprint of Random House, thought to be worth considerably more than £1 million.

The deal catapults Amis into the super league of British millionaire novelists headed by Jeffrey Archer, Jackie Collins and Salman Rushdie. He surprised the

literary world yesterday by announcing his split with HarperCollins, even though he is yet to fulfil his promised two-book contract. It was unclear whether he would still have to deliver to HarperCollins a volume of short stories.

The move was orchestrated by Andrew Wylie, the New York agent known in the trade as The Jackal. He has upset many by luring Amis away from his original agency, Peter, Fraser and Dunlop. Sources close to the agency said it was highly unorthodox for an author to break such a contract "especially as the original negotiations surrounding it were so

acrimonious". One observed: "The real victim is HarperCollins. There are many fine nuances at play, involving writers' ego, testosterone and literary envy. Martin never used to be that interested in money. I hear things have changed."

An alternative view was provided by Louis Baum, the editor of *The BookSELLER*: "It may be that because *The Information* did not perform as well as HarperCollins hoped — in other words, sales haven't earned back its advance — the publishing house was unwilling to commit itself to extending itself to such a long contract with Amis."



Amis: four-book deal with Jonathan Cape

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# Parents denied choice of schools

BY JOHN O'LEARY  
AND DAVID CHARTER

MILLIONS of pounds are being wasted and tens of thousands of parents denied their first choice of school because of inefficiencies in the allocation of school places, government spending watchdogs will disclose today.

A highly critical report by the Audit Commission will say there is a wasteful mismatch between pupils and places, with one in six less than three-quarters full but one in three filled beyond capacity. The commission estimates that more than 300,000 empty places could be removed, releasing cash for other

purposes. The report, *Trading Places*, represents the first systematic examination of one of the main planks of the Government's education policy. The commission says there is little real choice for parents in many areas and popular schools are not expanding to cope with demand. The report concludes: "Local authorities' attempts at intervention and management are hampered — sometimes by their own poor performance, but also by the defects of the national policy framework."

"Tackling the current shortcomings will require effort at both a local and a national level. These efforts could yield both financial savings, ultimately around £100 million."

A survey of ten local authorities found that almost one in five parents did not get their "genuine first preference" state secondary school in September 1995. The number of appeals was found to have increased by 44 per cent in the past three years.

Surplus provision should be removed if a school is less than 75 per cent full, the report says. Parents should be given better information on all schools in their area and schools should be monitored closely so that agencies can intervene before financial problems mount in unpopular schools. The commission makes clear that the market system set up by successive Acts on education has worked against the interests of

parents. It urges the Government to act to mend the "defects" of current policies. It says: "The desired outcomes of economy, efficiency and effectiveness, as well as the satisfaction of parental choice, will not be achieved automatically by the operation of the market alone."

The commission says there are many areas which could be improved and sets out a 14-point plan, with more than half the measures aimed at improving the performance of local authorities. Among these is a call for scrapping sixth forms with fewer than 150 students if local agreements on collaboration and sharing of facilities cannot be reached in the search to cut costs.

The ten local authorities studied in depth for the study were the city councils of Birmingham and Leeds, the boroughs of Doncaster, Kingston-upon-Thames and Southwark, and the counties of Essex, Lancashire, Mid-Glamorgan, Northumberland and Warwickshire.

The report points out that government spending has not matched its much vaunted policy of enabling popular schools to expand. "In most circumstances, the Department for Education's capital allocation procedures do not provide funds for adding capacity to popular schools in England where there are unfilled places in neighbouring schools — even if these are of a different type."

MATTHEW PARRIS  
POLITICAL SKETCH

## Major turns to government by confusion

In our frenzy over the detail of Tory policy, we are missing something more important: the creative genius of our Prime Minister. By stealth he is abandoning the ancient doctrine of collective Cabinet responsibility.

It is quite refreshing. Other leaders pretend they have a frontbench position on important questions, but John Major hardly bothers. Yesterday, quizzed by Tony Blair on the Government's latest cattle cull, Mr Major repeated what has long been his line: that BSE policy is led by "the science". He murmured something about "changed scientific evidence" on maternal transmission to calves. "The science" had changed, so the policy had changed.

Not many minutes later Douglas Hogg, the Minister of Agriculture, was on his feet, offering his own explanation for the increased cattle slaughter. It had little to do with science, Mr Hogg said. "The real justification for the cull is that unless we do the cull we will not get progress on lifting the ban. That is a political fact, not a scientific fact."

Mr Major says one thing: Mr Hogg says the opposite. Mr Blair was vexed about the confusion and used it to some effect in the House yesterday, mocking what he called the "serial incompetence" of the Government. But the chamber was half-empty and the press gallery listless. "Hell," we thought, "this is all such a mess, and anyway it's nearly Christmas." Pencils dropped.

If, in a through-the-looking-glass world, key figures keep contradicting each other, there is only so much mileage to be had from pointing this out. After a while we tire of demonstrating what has already been demonstrated — that different voices are saying different things — and give up. Mr Major just keeps throwing sand in people's eyes until they take their buckets and

spades and quit the beach, leaving him alone with his sandcastle, which was what he wanted all along.

He seemed to be adopting this tactic on a broad front yesterday. Adopting his Mystic Meg voice and speaking in a strangely relaxed near-monotone, he told Euro-sceptic and Euro-phobic sleeve-tuggers (variously) that he would brook no fudging from Europe: that Britain's whole relationship with Europe was in the balance; that it wasn't; and that he absolutely shared the worries of backbench colleague David Wiltshire (Spelthorne) about anti-European feeling.

Ray Whitney (C, Wycombe) is so Europhile that he sounds like a simultaneous translation from French. To Mr Major's delight he commended to him a mysterious "middle way" called "realistic British Europeanism".

Sir Teddy Taylor (C, Southend E) is so rabidly Europhile that he turns up all but wiping the foam flecks from his mouth. He welcomed the Prime Minister's resolve to have no truck with EU demands. Mr Major agreed this was "essential".

Within minutes of each other, Sir Patrick Cormack (C, Staffs S) and Edward Leigh (C, Gainsborough & Horncastle) had congratulated him warmly over Europe. Sir Patrick and Mr Leigh do not inhabit the same planet. Either the Prime Minister has two European policies or one of these gentlemen has misunderstood the policy he does have.

In fact they both misunderstood. Mr Major may have a view, but none of us has the least idea what it is. We find ourselves confronted by him as in a canyon we might be confronted by the rock face. The rock keeps its counsel. We hear only strange, mocking echoes of our own opinions.

## About-turn on BSE meets EU conditions

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S agreement to carry out a selective cattle cull means that the Government has formally met all the conditions set at the EU summit in Florence in June for easing the ban on British beef.

At Florence the Government undertook to slaughter and destroy up to 147,000 cattle identified as being at particular risk of developing BSE. These were cattle born between 1989 and 1993 and reared on the same infected feed as animals that have died of BSE.

In September, the Cabinet had shelved plans for the cull, citing new scientific evidence that BSE would die out naturally around 2001 and that the slaughter would do little if anything to bring this date nearer. The Government has

now been forced to return to much the same plan it rejected only three months ago. One difference, as Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, told the Commons, is that only about 100,000 cattle will need to be culled because about 50,000 of those targeted in June have already been killed in the separate slaughter of animals over 30 months old.

Some 1.1 million older cattle have been destroyed since early May to reassure consumers that only young beef, the least likely to have been exposed to BSE, is entering the food chain.

Under the 30-month scheme, farmers can keep cows on their farms until the end of their working lives. Under the selective cull, which could affect about 2,000 herds,

any targeted animal will be removed immediately. The selective cull is expected to cost about £150 million gross, with a net cost to the Treasury of £90 million. That reflects partial funding by the rest of the European Union and savings from having to kill fewer animals than once thought.

The figure comes on top of more than £1 billion already being spent this year on the cull of older cattle and related aid and compensation. However, it is already clear that it will be months before the selective cull begins.

□ About 800 French cattle breeders ransacked Dutch and Irish trucks and burnt cargoes of veal in Paris to back their demands for more European Union aid in coping with the BSE crisis.

## CJD blamed for girl's death

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

A YOUNG woman is thought to be the latest person to have died from the new variant strain of CJD blamed on eating BSE-infected meat, especially beefburgers.

Victoria Lowther, 19, the daughter of a hotel owner in Carlisle, Cumbria, died last month in a hospice four months after first complaining of repeated headaches. From a bright, pretty teenager heading for university, she quickly degenerated into an invalid,

bound to a wheelchair and dependent on carers.

The catastrophic decline in her health is consistent with the symptoms of variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, which hits younger people with devastating results. The Department of Health said last night that there were 14 confirmed cases of the variant strain, which government scientists have linked to "mad cow" disease. Two of the confirmed cases are still alive.

Every new case raises fears of an epidemic among young-

sters who ate cheap beef products in the late 1980s. Miss Lowther had no connection with cattle or meat production.

At first she was treated at the neurology unit of the Royal Victoria Hospital in Newcastle upon Tyne. Doctors allowed her to go home after they told her there was nothing more they could do for her.

Ian Morton, the coroner for North-East Cumbria, said he was satisfied that CJD was the cause of Miss Lowther's illness. He has decided not to hold an inquest into her death.



Victoria Lowther, who died after a swift decline in health over four months

## UK public borrowing 'too high for Emu'

BY JANET BUSH  
ECONOMICS  
CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S public borrowing is expected to be too high to qualify for membership of the European single currency, even if it decided that it wanted to join, according to an influential think-tank.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development said in its latest economic outlook that, on the European definition of public borrowing, Britain's deficit next year is likely to amount to 3.7 per cent of gross domestic product. This is above the 3 per cent limit laid down in the Maastricht Treaty.

Borrowing is forecast to fall to about the required 3 per cent level by 1998 but 1997 is the test year which will count when the euro "ins" and "outs" are decided.

Val Koromay, the OECD's deputy director of the economic outlook, said the latest public borrowing projections had been made before last month's Budget but that the Chancellor's package of measures changed the figures only marginally. He said Britain's deficit was destined to be a "substantial way above" the Maastricht level.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, welcomed the report, which was optimistic on the outlook for growth, inflation and unemployment, but he did not respond to the OECD's pessimism on the public finances.

Germany may also miss the deficit limit, albeit by a smaller margin, according to the latest forecast by the Ifo economic institute in Munich. Ifo said it expects the German deficit to be 3.2 per cent of GDP in 1997.

The OECD's judgment on Britain's public finances is far less upbeat than the Chancellor's view at Budget time when he said that it was a "lucky coincidence" that Britain's deficit would come down to within the Maastricht Treaty limits on one in 1997.

## Male smokers should quit before conception

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

THE report on the analysis of the lifestyle of the families of children who develop cancer will make worrying reading for parents, particularly fathers. It has always been reassuring, as a doctor, to be able to explain to parents that the cause of such cancers is usually unknown, but it is thought to be no fault of their own. These bland words are now to be denied us when comforting a father who smokes, as it may be that he has disastrously damaged the genetic material in his own sperm, thereby leading to the malignancy.

Sperm are more easily influenced by toxins than is usually supposed. Despite their ability to swim so far, and against such odds, they are very fragile. Scientists have detected an increased number of abnormal forms, deterioration in numbers, less motility and less purposeful movement in the sperm of men who drink alcohol to excess and, which has also been reported, in those who smoke cannabis.

It may be that, in both these instances, tobacco smoked while drinking, or with hashish, is of greater importance than has hitherto been realised. Any effect on a baby of

these substances when taken by the mother is presumably the result of an adverse effect on the developing foetus, whereas when abnormalities are the result of the lifestyle of the male the influence is on the genetic structure of the sperm.

Sperm are constantly being manufactured and the process is continuous, whereas a woman is born with her full complement of ova; therefore, the good news is that if the man stops smoking some months before conception there is every likelihood that his fertilising sperm will be as healthy as those of his non-smoking neighbour.

It is suggested that the effect of tobacco smoking on spermatogenesis may be the result of free radicals, those sinister, marauding, unattached electrons which can be so damaging to a wide variety of human

tissues. Greater consumption well before pregnancy is contemplated of anti-oxidants — vitamins C and E — and the carotenoids, as well as folic acid, which neutralise the free radicals, is a wise precaution, whether the parents are smokers or not.

The dangers to young children of having parents who smoke are already well documented. The mother who smokes during pregnancy is reported to have smaller, less intelligent babies, with all the attendant risks. If either partner continues to smoke after delivery, the children are more likely to have asthma, upper respiratory tract infections and to die from cot death. To these potential dangers will now have to be added childhood cancer, if the father has not given up his cigarettes several months before conception.

## Sperm 'may cause cancer'

Continued from page 1  
reached different conclusions.

The new figures are drawn from the Oxford Survey of Childhood Cancers, which was started in the 1950s by Dr Alice Stewart. Now aged 90, she is a co-author of the new study, published in the *British Journal of Cancer*.

Dr Stewart set out to interview the parents of every child in England, Scotland and Wales who died of cancer under the age of 16. The study relates to 1,952 cancer deaths in the years 1953-55, and is based on interviews with the parents of 83.6 per cent of them. The results were compared with a matched group of parents of healthy children.

The study shows that a mother's smoking habits do not influence their children's risk of getting cancer, but that

a father's do. For a wide range of cancers, including leukaemia, neuroblastoma and bone cancer, the risks are increased.

The relationship holds good even when possible confounding factors such as class, age, and exposure of the mother to X-rays during pregnancy are taken into account, Dr Sorahan said.

"Smoking is already believed to alter the DNA of some sperm and our new findings suggest that it could lead to cancer-causing mutations," he said.

Whether today's milder cigarettes are having as great an effect as those smoked in the 1950s is uncertain.

Nor is it clear how soon a man would have to give up smoking to protect a future child.

"The risk that a child will die of cancer is quite small,"

Dr Sorahan said, "and smoking increases that risk by 20-30 per cent."

Professor Richard Peto of Oxford University said that smokers spend their lives bathed in chemicals capable of causing genetic changes, so it would not be surprising if such chemicals damaged sperm.

Professor Gordon McVie, Director General of the Cancer Research Campaign, said: "We already know that the majority of childhood cancers are caused by factors which occur prior to birth and it seems plausible that paternal smoking could be one of them."

The *British Journal of Cancer* also reports that breathing a mixture of oxygen and carbon dioxide can increase the potency of anti-cancer drugs.

“not sure which rewards programme is the best”



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# Hospital gave prostate drug to woman with cramp



Graham: seeking inquiry into hospital's mistake

**By Emma Wilkins**  
A PREGNANT woman who was admitted to hospital suffering stomach cramps was given a drug meant for men suffering prostate problems, it emerged yesterday. Pamela Graham, who is eight weeks pregnant, will have to wait until her baby is born to discover if it has suffered any damage.

Mrs Graham, an auxiliary community nurse from Redruth, Cornwall, called for an inquiry after Trelliske Hospital apologised for the mistake. "My major concern is for my baby. I am not interested in any compensation for myself, but these mistakes should not occur," Mrs Graham said.

When she was admitted to the hospital earlier this month, Mrs Graham was initially given a bed in the men's section of a mixed ward before staff moved her next to other women.

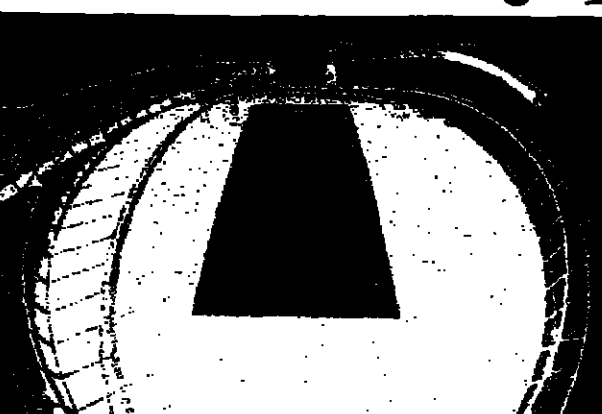
Mrs Graham, who trained at the hospital five years ago, asked to be prescribed folic acid — a recommended supplement she had been taking for her baby's wellbeing. But she was given a tablet of Tamsulosin, a drug designed to alleviate prostate problems by relaxing the neck of the bladder. Mrs Graham took one tablet and was given six more to take over the week but a staff nurse realised that a mistake had been made before she took any.

Royal Cornwall Hospitals Trust, which runs Trelliske Hospital, admitted the error and apologised. It is the latest in a series of blunders at the hospital, where a baby was sent home last year with a hypodermic needle in his back.

Mrs Graham has been told it is unlikely that her baby will be harmed but doctors cannot be sure until after the birth in August. She said: "Initially I was extremely angry but very quickly this turned into absolute disbelief. I am hoping that an inquiry will not only reinstate confidence in Trelliske Hospital but will also prevent any further problems occurring in the future."

## Wembley beats rivals to £100m lottery prize

**By Marcus Binney**  
THE Sports Council will announce today that London has won the greatest lottery prize of all, the £180 million project for a new national football and athletics stadium at Wembley.



Norman Foster plans to turn the stadium through 90 degrees, so the twin towers are behind one goal



The winning design by Sir Norman Foster spins the existing pitch through 90 degrees so that the famous twin towers loom behind the northern goalmouth. The change involves moving the towers slightly further down Olympic Way.



How the stadium would look from Olympic Way. The towers will be moved slightly to accommodate the design

The lottery grant is likely to be more than £100 million. The Sports Council has spent months considering competing bids from Wembley and Manchester, but after the Football Association, the Football League and the FA Premier League came out in favour of Wembley, the choice of London was not seriously in doubt.

The Foster stadium bowl is swept up dramatically along the sides to create an undulating silhouette, with a wide translucent roof, complementing the white towers surviving from the 1924 Empire Exhibition. The outer skin of the stadium will be a colourful wall of constantly moving laser images, projected from within, and concealing the ugly underside of the seats, which has turned many stadiums into architectural eyesores.

Concourses on three levels will have large action-replay screens. Disabled access will be provided to all areas and a fully equipped hospital will be installed.

transport. London Transport will increase the capacity of Wembley Park Underground station to 50,000 an hour.

Wembley has set up a trust to build the stadium, leaving the existing owners, Wembley Stadium Ltd, as potential managing agents. Though the matching funds needed are

larger than for any other lottery project apart from the Millennium Festival, Wembley is confident that the potential for corporate entertainment and sponsorship will ensure a flow of private investment.

Plans for a Millennium Tower in the City of London, which would be Europe's tallest building and dwarf the Canary Wharf tower, have been attacked by the Royal Fine Art Commission. The 1,265ft tower, intended for the site of the bomb-damaged Baltic Exchange, was described by the commission as "simply out of scale". The commission's chairman, Lord St John of Fawsley, wrote to Sir Norman Foster, who designed the tower, explaining that the organisation could not back the scheme. A spokesman for Foster and Partners had no comment.

## Bishop refuses to preach in cathedral at Christmas

**By Russell Jenkins**  
THE Bishop of Lincoln is refusing to set foot inside his cathedral this Christmas in protest at the continuing feud between the dean and sub-dean.



Bishop Hardy: boycott is gesture of despair

The Right Rev Robert Hardy traditionally joins the carol singers on Christmas Eve and preaches from the pulpit on Christmas Day. However, he has made it clear through his office that he cannot be seen alongside the Dean of Lincoln, the Very Rev Brandon Jackson, and the Sub-dean, Canon Rex Davis.

## Bomb pair jailed for 20 years

**By Stewart Tindler**  
TWO Palestinian science graduates who used their education to build bombs were jailed for 20 years each at the Old Bailey yesterday for plotting to blow up the Israeli Embassy and a Jewish charity.

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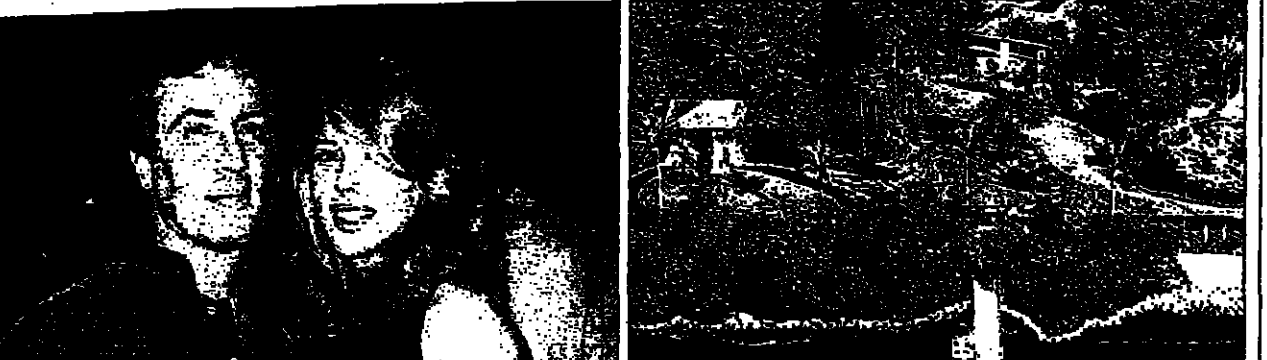
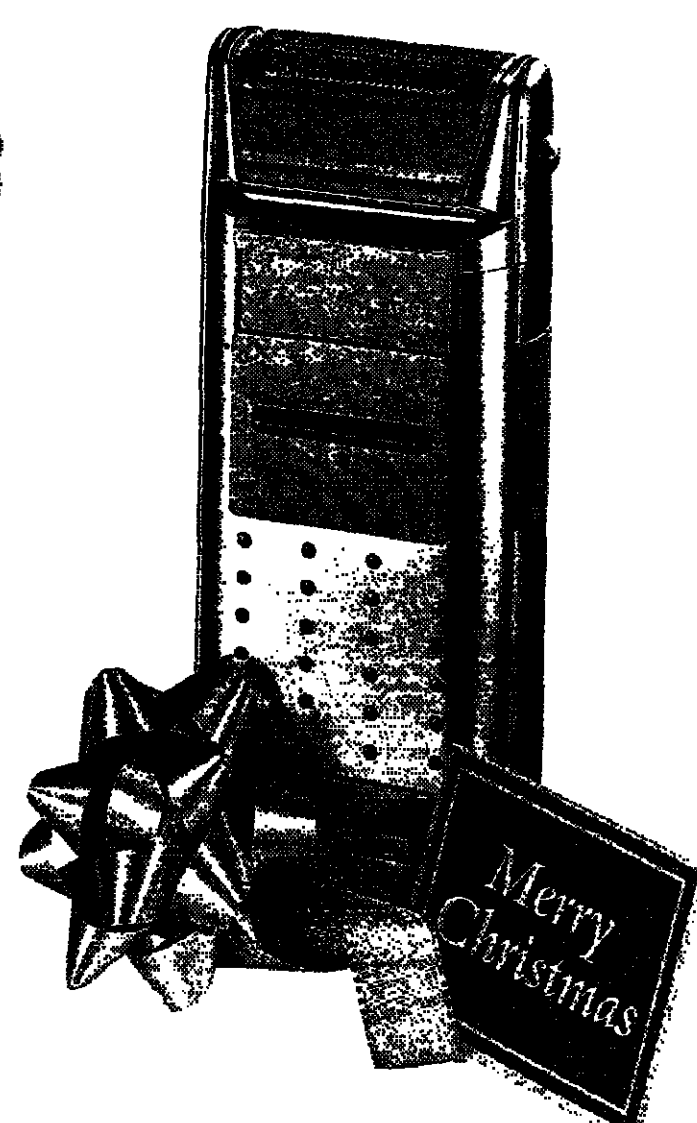
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Stallone and Jennifer Flavin, mother of his baby daughter Sophia, and the Miami home that they will leave

## Rambo flees Miami vice for London

**By Damian Whitworth**  
SYLVESTER STALLONE, the muscled hard man of Hollywood action films, is to flee America for a new life in London. He said he was not prepared to bring up his daughter, now three months old, in crime-ridden Miami.

"My home town, Miami, is beautiful — but it has become extremely dangerous. I want my daughter to be safe and to have the best possible education and she just won't get that in the States. Miami has one of the worst education records in America. The European system seems to be so far ahead. A private education in Britain would give her the best opportunities in the best surroundings. I'm not going to wait until she's older. We'll move to London soon."

The Rambo star, who joins a cross-Atlantic drift of other American actors, such as Tom Cruise, often visits Wentworth Golf Club in Surrey when he is in Britain. Stallone, 50, is due to give evidence soon in the trial of one of his former security guards for the attempted murder of another guard in the grounds of his home. "I have the best security money can buy but it's still not enough. I just don't want my family exposed to those kind of dangers. I know there's crime everywhere but I want to go somewhere where the risks are less," he told *The Sun*.

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Identity disc helps experts to identify first of 27 Royal Fusiliers killed in the second battle of Arras

## Exhumed soldiers are to be reburied in France

FROM BEN MACINTYRE  
IN MONCHY-LE-FRUX

THE remains of 27 British soldiers killed in the First World War and discovered recently in northern France are to be reburied there.

Forensic experts and military historians were yesterday working to put names to the soldiers, whose makeshift cemetery was discovered on a former battlefield at the edge of an industrial park outside the northern town of Arras.

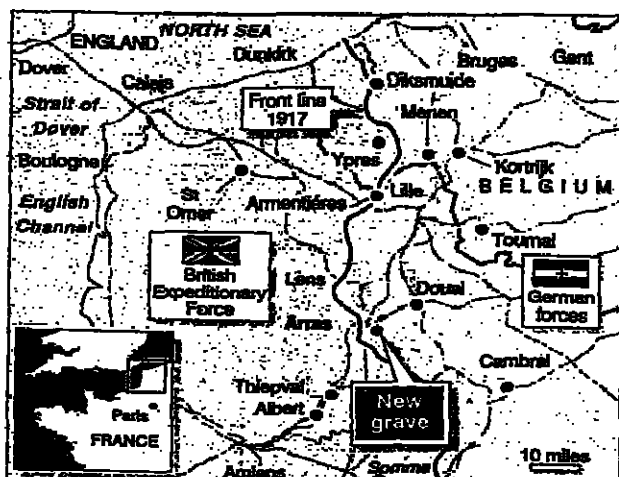
Beverly Webb, a spokeswoman for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, said: "Whether we are successful or not in identifying them, the men will be reburied in a war cemetery in France." She added: "The nearest would be at Arras, but we want to keep the men together and the problem would be whether there are 27 plots there."

Duncan Thomas, exhumations officer at the commission, believes he has identified one of the Royal Fusiliers, killed in the second battle of Arras in April 1917, from a metal identity disc found at the site.

While farmers in northern France periodically unearth the remains of First World War soldiers, most of the large burial sites have been identified. The latest discovery is the largest since the commission uncovered the remains of 51 British soldiers on the Somme battlefield in 1982.

The Monchy site, uncovered by construction workers on Friday, is a sea of mud. It is on a flat strip of land between a new autoroute and the high-speed rail link to Paris. Eurostar trains carrying passengers from London pass a few yards away.

The skeletons — "in a remarkably good state of preservation", according to Michael Johnson, director of the war graves commission in France — have been taken to the mortuary at Arras, where researchers are removing the mud from them retrieved at the site in the search for clues.



The objects are the commonplace but moving detritus of war: a broken pipe, a live round, a tanner (skinner), a belt buckle, a tunic button and the epaulettes tag from the 13th Battalion Royal Fusiliers.

As the archaeological evidence and regimental records are pieced together, a clearer picture is emerging of the soldiers' possible fate. They are only a tiny handful of the 35,000 unknown dead who perished at Arras alone.

The identified soldier, whose name has not been released, was a private in the fusiliers killed on April 11, 1917, during some of the bloodiest fighting of the war. The day after his death, *The Times* talked of "snart" and "stiff" fighting and described the German counter assault as "probably no more than a local attempt to check our advance... and will not succeed even in that more than temporarily at most".

Evidence from the Monchy site paints a very different picture, of carnage and chaos and a cemetery barely deserving the name, thrown together in the heat of battle as British and German troops fought over the village. The 27 men were buried without coffins, fully clothed, wearing their boots and many still carrying ammunition pouches. Some were buried in shell holes, while others were laid below a few inches of earth.

The remains of six soldiers at one end of the site had been previously disturbed, apparently by an exploding shell. However, most of the skeletons are intact, which may indicate that they were casualties wounded in battle who died later in a field hospital near by. Alternatively, Mr. Johnson said, they may have been cut down at the same

time by German machinegun fire. More than 100 fusiliers died on April 11 and identifying the bodies without discs will depend on what, if anything, can be learnt from the objects retrieved from the site. "Maybe we will find a spoon with initials on it, or a belt with a serial number," Mr. Thomas said. But even the metal

remnants are so badly decayed that positive identification may be impossible. "This won't tell us anything," Mr. Thomas said, holding up a crumbling identity disc.

The commission has placed the names of the 17 million killed in two world wars on a computer database, but identifying those from the newly found grave will be a painstaking detective job. "This might have been an ad-hoc cemetery, ordered by an officer who was later killed, so there would be no record," Mr. Johnson said.

If and when some of the remains are formally identified, the commission will inform the Ministry of Defence, which will then set about attempting to track down relatives. Tomorrow, the earth movers will return to the site, which is destined to disappear under the sprawling industrial suburbs of Arras. Nevertheless, it will forever be associated with 27 men who died fighting for their country.



Some of the objects from the burial site. Not all soldiers had been issued with metal identity discs by 1917

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## Euro rowdies force Sega to kill the queue

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE unspeakable behaviour of continental Europeans has deprived queue-loving Britons of another opportunity to stand in line. The relaunch of a Japanese theme park in central London revealed that the complete rethink of a concept that worked perfectly well in Tokyo was forced by the unwillingness of a range of European visitors to stand one behind the other and await their turn.

The £45 million Segaworld leisure complex in the Trocadero at Piccadilly Circus lowered its general admission price from £12 to £2 and simultaneously introduced individual charges from 50p to £3 for the rides and games.

In the 11 weeks since Segaworld's launch, the managers had found that those who had paid £12 admission formed huge and often unruly queues, at the most popular attractions. Instead of being a centre of fun and innocent pleasure for all the family, Segaworld quickly degenerated into a bearpit of queue-jumping, arguments and, on occasion, brawling.

Back home in Tokyo, Sega has no such problems with its sister attraction, Joypolis. Nick Leslau, chief executive of the Trocadero, said: "The Japanese are terribly polite. If you ask them to stay in a queue, they will."

The trouble at Segaworld was not caused by the Brits, Mr. Leslau politely hinted. "It is the Europeans who are more aggressive and impatient. The problem was that demand for some of the rides was so high that the queues were an hour or more long. Customers did not like that and they said so."

An entirely unscientific survey in central London yesterday showed that the most reluctant queuers were hard-

elbowed Germans. They who attempt to bore their way toward their goal using their arms like screwdriver flanges. In second place come Italians, whose chosen technique is to saunter forward from vantage points near, but not in, the head of the queue, and then to adopt expressions of outraged innocence when accused of not waiting their turn.

Newcomers with rough and ready tactics to beware include Russians and other newly enriched Slavs. After years spent queuing for everything, they now favour a head-down, bullish charge for the front, somewhat like the tanks which their masters used to keep them in order.

Old-fashioned Londoners, though, still delight in queues. "I gave up shopping in Tesco," said Ada Cullen, 78, of Poplar, east London, "when they introduced their silly one-in-front policy, trying to abolish the queues. Queuing is the biggest social occasion of my week. You meet new people, get to hear and see what they are buying and pick up the gossip and the news. Queuing is great."

Two years ago London Transport abandoned a by-law requiring passengers to form orderly queues no more than two abreast. That was not because they had given up hope of keeping order in bus queues, but because so far as anyone could remember no prosecution had ever been brought under the provision.

"It was introduced in 1938 and came into effect in 1939," a spokesman said, "but the need for it to control throngs leaving football matches and such, was overtaken by the war. Then the patient British public got so much into the habit of queuing for everything that the bylaw was never needed."





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Baldry: held meetings with Ulster Unionists

## Vote-conscious Baldry to seek better fish deal for Ulster

By JILL SHERMAN  
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BALDRY, the Fisheries Minister, promised last night that he would try to secure higher quotas for Northern Ireland in what was widely seen as an attempt to win Ulster Unionist support in a vote on European fisheries policy.

The nine Ulster Unionists, who are now pivotal to keeping John Major in office, were threatening to vote against the Government. They oppose the fisheries policy which they say penalises the Province's fishing industry. They have been

particularly incensed by a little known element of the policy called the "Hague Preference", which favours the Republic at the expense of Northern Ireland.

Under the agreement drawn up in 1983, Ireland was given a specific threshold of fishing quotas below which it could not fall. If the annual fishing quotas agreed every December by the European fisheries ministers meant that they fell below the threshold, they were entitled to invoke the agreement to obtain more fish.

However, because trawlermen from the Republic fish in the same

waters as the Northern Irish the North is inevitably penalised. Last week Mr Baldry had a series of meetings with Ulster Unionist MPs from fishing constituencies.

At the end of last week Mr Baldry sent Mr Taylor a letter promising to review the Hague Preference in the new year. Mr Taylor signalled over the weekend that this was not enough but yesterday Mr Baldry told MPs that he would demand higher quotas for Northern Ireland at the Fisheries Council on Thursday on Friday, when the levels for next year are decided.

Speaking in the Commons shortly

before the vote Mr Baldry said there would be tough negotiations on fishing stocks but he was determined to achieve "substantial improvements" on the Commission's proposals. "I shall want to use international quota swaps to increase our quotas in the Irish Sea to the direct benefit of the Northern Irish industry," he said. "I shall wish, so far as it is possible, to mitigate the immediate disadvantages to the Northern Irish industry."

Mr Baldry also repeated his pledge to reconsider whether the Hague Preference benefited the

United Kingdom, and whether the Government should ask for it to continue. But officials pointed out that any attempt to do so would have to be done with agreement by European ministers.

Even after the concession, the Ulster Unionists kept the Government guessing as to whether they would offer their support. They were wary about inflicting a government defeat that could help to bring forward the general election, and several MPs were unimpressed by Mr Baldry's olive branch, claiming that he had said the same thing a year ago.

One Ulster Unionist said it was important to keep a distance from both main parties. He suggested that the party had a better negotiating position on developments on the Irish peace process if it kept its options open on whether to support the Tories or Labour in key votes.

David Trimble, the leader of the Ulster Unionists, said on Sunday that the party would not behave in a "capricious" or irresponsible manner indicating that his party would not help to bring down the Government in a no-confidence motion.

Leading article, page 15

## Howard's adviser says gun Bill is monstrous injustice

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Home Secretary's Bill for a ban on most handguns was criticised yesterday by his chief adviser on gun laws.

The Earl of Shrewsbury, chairman of the Firearms Consultative Committee, which gives independent advice to ministers, said that the Firearms (Amendment) Bill would not prevent another Dunblane massacre. He accused politicians on all sides of making a "disastrous kneejerk reaction" and said that their use of the tragedy for political ends was "sickening".

The Tory peer was speaking as the Bill came up for second reading in the House of Lords. Almost 40 peers lined up to criticise the Bill and gave notice that the Government would come under strong pressure to amend it during the committee stage in the new year.

The Bill would ban all handguns except for .22 calibre weapons kept securely at a gun club, taking about 160,000 guns out of circulation.

Lord Shrewsbury said that his committee felt horror and disgust at what happened in Dunblane. But he said that the Bill would make no difference to the possibility of a similar atrocity taking place in the future. "I find it sickening to witness the political parties on all sides doing their utmost to score political points."

He said particularly dis-

graceful was the behaviour of the Labour Party to call for a ban on all handguns before the Cullen report into the tragedy had been published. He also said that it was sickening for David Mellor, the Tory MP for Putney, to call all legitimate firearm users 'perverts'.

Lord Shrewsbury said that the Bill would destroy many innocent people's livelihoods. "I find it a disgrace in a civilised society that people should be so deprived of earning their livelihoods through no fault of their own in a way which amounts to legalised theft. It is a monstrous injustice which I believe to be unworthy of a country which has always believed in fair play."

He said that instead the Government should have implemented the recommendations made in the Cullen report. This, he said, included giving more resources to the police to combat illegally held firearms, putting greater pressure on Britain's European partners to tighten up their own gun laws.

The ferocity of Lord Shrewsbury's attack, in language rarely heard in the Lords, demonstrated the strength of feeling among many peers.

Earlier the Earl of Strathford, a crossbencher, had tabled a motion calling for the Lords to reject the Bill at second read-

ing. By convention, peers rarely throw out a Government Bill at this stage and he later said that he would not push the matter to a vote. He had tabled the motion, he said, to prompt a reaction from the Government.

Lord Strathford said he agreed with a fellow peer who said the Bill was an "emotional reaction tinged with political expediency". He went on: "The politicians have not been able to move beyond their first emotional reaction. They are now trying to smuggle the Bill through Parliament."

He said Lord Cullen had concluded that the key cause of the Dunblane massacre was the failure of the Scottish police and authorities to implement firearm legislation and stop Thomas Hamilton possessing a licence. "We must concentrate on the person and not the gun," he said. "Using the pistol shooters as scapegoats achieves remarkably little."

Lord Stoddart of Swinton, a former Labour minister, broke ranks with his own front bench, and condemned the Bill as ill-considered and premature. "This Bill, far from guaranteeing that there will be no future Dunblane or Hungerford, will simply serve to penalise genuine shooters and instead miss the real problem of enforcement and illegally held handguns."



Labour's new MP for Barnsley East, Jeff Ennis, centre right, and his wife, Margaret, right, being welcomed to Parliament yesterday by John Prescott, the deputy party leader, and fellow Labour MPs. The fisheries vote ensured that Mr Ennis, fresh from his by-election victory on Thursday, wasted no time in taking his seat

## Teachers wary of Blair's scheme

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR came under attack from teachers yesterday for plans to parachute successful heads into struggling schools and give them powers to sack incompetent staff.

In a speech the Labour leader said that in government he would have "zero tolerance" of school underperformance and would speed up

the process of dismissing poor teachers.

Local authorities said that they would welcome extra powers to rid poor schools of senior staff but teachers' organisations gave warning against creating a hire-and-fire system.

At present councils can appoint a temporary head if inspectors say that a school is failing, but Mr Blair proposed extending the scheme where the school is judged to be at risk of failure.

Croydon Council in south London has just sent George Varnava, a retired former president of the National Association of Head Teachers, to take over the failing Ashburton High School. He said: "One of the best things that is happening to education is that it is in the spotlight, but the only problem with that is, just like football, you have got

to perform well or you are out of the head teacher is extremely vulnerable and it is coming down to a hire-and-fire system."

Peter Smith, general secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, said that "serious logistical problems" would have to be solved before Mr Blair's scheme could work. "A school in danger of failing needs a good, strong head teacher of its own, not a job-share with a neighbouring school which may be many miles away."

Mr Blair said that his Education Secretary would have the status of "the manager's job at Newcastle United". But as Prime Minister he would maintain an interest and take part in strategic decision-making. "We will, for the benefit of both other teachers and, above all, pupils, ensure that poor teachers

are removed from teaching more quickly."

He was speaking at Ruskin College, Oxford, 20 years after Lord Callaghan of Cardiff, the last Labour Prime Minister, gave a speech there in which he attacked Britain's poor academic standards.

Mr Blair said it was too late to wait until a school was declared to be failing. "We need to be able to intervene early with sufficient power to stop the spiral of decline."

He went on: "Good leadership is critical. While it will not be appropriate in all circumstances, encouraging tried and tested leaders to take on responsibility for underperforming schools could provide a lifeline for schools caught in a vicious circle of low expectation, poor management, declining rolls and low morale."

## Stalking law pledge broken, say Tories

By JAMES LANDALE

MICHAEL HOWARD accused Labour yesterday of reneging on a promise to back the Government's anti-stalking Bill as it passes through the Commons.

The Home Secretary criticised a string of amendments to the Bill that Jack Straw, his Labour counterpart, has tabled for consideration when the measure comes before the Commons today.

Labour sources insisted that the party supported the Bill but nonetheless had a duty to scrutinise it. They said that the amendments would not delay the Bill but would improve it.

The Protection from Harassment Bill aims to create two criminal offences and one civil measure. John Major left the measure out of the Queen's Speech, intending for it to be a Private Member's Bill. But he changed his mind in the Commons when Tony Blair told him: "Produce those Bills on stalking and paedophiles as Government Bills and we will co-operate to take them through the House without delay."

Yesterday Mr Howard said: "Jack Straw is reneging on Tony Blair's promise to co-operate with us to take the Bill through the House without delay." What is more, his proposals would significantly reduce the public's protection from harassment.

Mr Straw has tabled 11 amendments, the most substantial of which lists definitions of harassment, such as loitering, telephoning and interfering with property. The Government believes that this approach would make it more difficult to secure convictions.

The Bill, as it now stands, would make it an offence for anyone to put another person in fear of violence on more than one occasion, or to act in a way that they ought to know amounts to harassment. It would also allow victims to seek civil redress. Offenders would face sentences of up to five years and/or heavy fines.

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## Ridings school put on probation

By JOHN O'LEARY

GILLIAN SHEPHERD put The Ridings School on probation yesterday, leaving it in the hands of its local authority but maintaining the threat of a "hit squad" if standards do not rise.

The Halifax comprehensive achieved notoriety in October when it was closed temporarily after a series of violent incidents, an emergency inspection and the threat of a teachers' strike. Mrs Shephard, the Education Secretary, ordered fortnightly reports on the school when it was declared to be failing.

Mrs Shephard responded to the action plans submitted by the school's governors and Calderdale education authority by acknowledging the improvement that had taken place in less than two months. But she said the inspections showed "much more progress" was needed. Although she chose not to transfer The Ridings to an education association, she said she would not hesitate to do so. She ordered three more reports before Easter.

Ian Jennings, Calderdale's Director of Education, said Mrs Shephard's comments were a statement of the obvious, adding: "Clearly there is still a great deal to be done."

Mrs Shephard said that the authority was to blame for having been content to watch The Ridings decline. "As a consequence, the school now has an enormous mountain to climb and I am unwilling to leave it to the mercy of the authority until I am satisfied that it is safe to do so."

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# Kennedy snaps under pressure from paparazzi

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A BRAWL in a New York street suggests that John Kennedy Jr, son of the late United States President, has reached breaking point with the paparazzi who follow his every move.

Mr Kennedy and his new bride, Carolyn, have been hounded by freelance photographers since they returned from their autumn honeymoon. On Sunday the couple were out walking their dog in central Manhattan when they heard, yet again, the sound of camera motor drives. For once Mr Kennedy, 36, decided not to turn the other cheek. He marched over to one of the photographers' cars, reached through the open window and tried to seize the ignition key.

The incident illustrated the intolerable degree to which the Kennedys are being pursued by celebrity press photographers — every bit as intrusive as the paparazzi who dog the Royal Family. It came after

they learnt that some of their wedding photographs were stolen during a post-marriage party thrown for them at the home of Mr Kennedy's sister, Caroline.

The wedding was conducted amid high secrecy to frustrate the press. It is thought that a guest at the party stole the personal snapshots with the intention of selling them.

Public figures in America are becoming increasingly militant about the "snappers". The problem has been exacerbated by the growing market for video footage of well-known people. The rewards for photographers can be lucrative and the people do not always need to be famous in their own right: the sons and daughters of public figures are considered fair game.

The celebrities' responses range from aggression — Robert De Niro has been known to accost photographers and push them in the chest — to

commercial pressure. The actor George Clooney, supported by many Hollywood stars, has refused to co-operate with a leading "soft" showbusiness nightly television programme unless it forced a harder-nosed sister programme to call off its "stalkerazzi" photographers. The ploy has been largely successful.

During Sunday's incident, Mrs Kennedy broke down in tears while her husband, clearly enraged, led her to their flat. Before they went inside they flagged down a passing police car which chased the photographers away.

"John went ballistic," Marcel Thomas, a paparazzo, said. During the tussle for the car keys, he also pleaded with the photographers for privacy. Once he and Mrs Kennedy were safely inside the lobby of their building, he placed an arm round her shoulders to console her.



John Kennedy Jr and wife Carolyn outside their flat in October after honeymooning

# Meteorite ignites village's coffee crop in Honduras

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

A METEORITE has crashed in a remote area of Honduras, leaving a 165ft crater and setting fire to several acres of coffee crops.

News of the incident, which has sparked great scientific interest, took more than two weeks to filter out because of the remote location of the crater.

Witnesses said a large fireball plummeted to earth during the night of November 22 in a remote area of coffee fields about 125 miles west of Tegucigalpa, capital of the small Central American country.

"We saw a large ball of fire, with a long tail that rapidly descended from the sky and fell... before our incredulous eyes," said Elmer Rivera, a schoolteacher near the village of San Luis.

"There were enormous flames and everything was destroyed," said Francisco Aguilar, a farmer.

Honduran authorities have advised those living in the area to stay away from the crater until scientists can examine it for possibly harmful

substances. Scientists say that falling meteorites are rare, but that there is a level of risk, which is correlated to the size of the object," said Dr Jacqueline Milton, a scientist at the Royal Astronomical Society.

Experts say the Honduran meteorite may have been only a foot wide. But travelling at an estimated speed of almost 25,000 miles an hour (6.8 miles a second) the impact of the rocky missile created a huge crater.

The chances of a large meteorite hitting Earth are small, say scientists. Last month a three-mile-long asteroid, Toutatis, passed within 3.3 million miles of Earth. If an object of that size did hit, experts say it would be the equivalent of a massive nuclear explosion that could wipe out the human race. The impact might cause a curtain of dust to blot out the sun, producing the equivalent of a "nuclear winter" not unlike the theory which some say explains the extinction of the dinosaurs.



Only four Checker taxis are still operating

# New York's Checker cabs at end of road

New York: One of the most potent symbols of postwar New York, the yellow Checker cab, is on the verge of extinction (Quentin Letts writes).

There are only four Checkers left on the streets of Manhattan, four lumbering, genial giants of a New York taxi fleet which once numbered 5,000. The last examples are likely to be retired early next month after new requirements by the city's Taxi and Limousine Commission that cabs should not be more than five years old.

The 1950s-style Checker, with a long wheelbase and sitting high on the road, was New York's answer to the London black cab. It was roomy, big enough to bludgeon its way through traffic, and tough enough to withstand the potholes of the Manhattan public carriage-way. Unlike the London cab, however, it failed to adapt. It went out of production in 1982 and has gradually been replaced by smaller, less comfortable Ford Crown Victorias and Chevrolet Caprices.

One of the last Checker drivers, Earl Johnson, is not optimistic about the old warriors being given exemption from the commission's new rules. "But if they take the Checker, I'm gone too," said Mr Johnson, 59.

A decision by the commission on the future of the cab is expected in March.

# Two-seater fatties made butt of fines on subway

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

SUBWAY passengers are being fined under a 1940 law which forbids people from taking up more than one seat.

Allegations of "fatism" and pettiness have been aimed at city officials for imposing the law, which on the face of it appears unkind to broader-beamed passengers. But New York's Police Department yesterday defended itself, saying that the law was being used simply to stop thugs and tramps from taking up too much room in the carriages.

The \$50 (£31) fines are being issued at a rate of about 400 a week, generating useful revenue for the city and no shortage of grumbles. "When you give out the number of summonses we give out in this city, you are always going to have someone who is unhappy," said Howard Saffir, New York City's Police Commissioner.

Zachary Schlee, 19, a student, claimed that a policeman apologised when he was fined on the one-seat-only law. "The officer gave me a sob story about how he knew the ticket was petty and horrible, but that they were under pressure from the Mayor," said Mr Schlee, who claimed he was in a near-empty carriage reading a book and sitting lengthwise on a two-seat bench when he was fined.

The subway's moulded seats are of only average width and large folk regularly spill over onto a second seat.

Officer Kevin Tyrrell, on behalf of New York police, yesterday denied that the law was unfair to fat people. "The law is there as a tool and it is being used simply to stop people sleeping on trains."

A straw poll of riders on one subway train showed support for Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's seat campaign. "About time," said one elderly woman who said she had "had enough of having to stand".

# Critics rain prizes on slice of London life

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

A LOW-BUDGET film about love, prejudice and other realities of south London life has won three major prizes from a group of Los Angeles film critics.

*Secrets and Lies*, a profoundly British drama directed by Mike Leigh, won the Los Angeles Film Critics Association's awards for best film, best actress (Brenda Blethyn) and best director.

As the awards season gets under way in an exceptionally strong year for films from both sides of the Atlantic, *Secrets and Lies* prevailed over Woody Allen's new musical, *Everyone Says I Love You*, and such big-budget rivals as *The English Patient* and *The People vs Larry Flynt* (about the publisher of *Penthouse*).

In the film, which won the Palme d'Or at this year's Cannes film festival, Ms Blethyn plays a chain-smoking, working-class mother adrift in a midlife crisis of

part-time jobs and flaming rows with her one daughter. The plot thickens when she turns out to have another, who is out to find her, having been adopted at birth.

Developed over many months without a script or a single special effect, *Secrets and Lies* is Mr Leigh's fourth film to win critical acclaim in America (his others include *Life Is Sweet* and *Naked*), but the first to put him in contention for Oscar night.

Last week the New York Film Critics Circle voted *Shine*, an Australian release about a gifted but troubled pianist, the year's best film. Both critics' groups are known for favouring experimental films over mainstream ones, but at least their prestige is not in doubt.

Recent revelations of alleged corruption have tarnished the image of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, which runs the Golden Globes.

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# Kuwait wins \$610m for Gulf War oil inferno

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

A UNITED NATIONS commission is recommending that Kuwait should receive \$610 million (£370 million) in damages for the inferno started by Iraq in the Kuwaiti oilfields at the end of the Gulf War.

The award would compensate Kuwait for one of the worst Iraqi atrocities during its seven-month occupation of the emirate.

As allied troops marched on Kuwait in February 1991, retreating Iraqi soldiers set ablaze about 700 oil wells. The conflagration burnt for weeks, sending columns of acrid smoke high into the atmosphere, before the flaming wells were capped.

Abdul Rahman al-Houty, the former chairman of Kuwait's Public Authority, described the fires as "the most notorious and injurious of all the many direct losses suffered as a result of Iraq's unlawful invasion and occupation of Kuwait".

The Kuwait Oil Company had asked the Geneva-based UN Compensation Commission for \$950 million in damages in the first corporate claim assessed by the agency.

Diplomats said, yesterday that a three-judge panel, appointed by the commission, had recommended \$610 million in compensation to meet the cost of extinguishing the fires. The panel rejected \$3

million claimed for firefighting payments to Kuwaiti oil workers and deferred the remaining \$337 million to another claim dealing with the loss of physical infrastructure.

The Compensation Commission's governing council, composed of the Security Council's 15 member states, met yesterday to discuss the recommendation but was unable to reach a decision. Diplomats said a number of commission members had raised technical problems, but that formal approval could come as early as today.

"I don't think there is any one there with a political agenda to disrupt this, but equally there are a lot of people who have spoken up to raise rather smallish points," one official said. "People are aware that this is \$600 million of Iraq's money going to a single claimant and they want to be sure we are taking the right decision."

Iraq has objected to the Kuwaiti claim, insisting that the oil wells were set alight by allied bombing during the United States-led Operation Desert Storm to liberate Kuwait. Baghdad also complains that the UN trade embargo deprived it of funds for a legal challenge.

Since it was created in 1991, the commission has received \$200 billion in claims from



Oil workers cap a Kuwaiti oil well after putting out the blaze. Iraqi troops set about 700 wells on fire as they retreated from the emirate

individuals, companies and governments who suffered losses in the Gulf War. Until recently, its ability to pay compensation depended on limited government donations and seized Iraqi assets. So far, it has been able to pay out only \$13.4 million to 4,000 priority claimants who lost a close relative or were seriously injured in the conflict.

The commission will soon be able to pay out bigger sums as a result of the long-delayed implementation of the "oil for food" deal between the UN and Iraq, which sets aside 30

per cent of Iraq's oil revenues to compensate claimants.

The "oil for food" scheme allows Iraq to sell up to \$1 billion of crude oil every three months to buy food for its people, so the compensation fund will soon start getting about \$100 million a month.

About 240 British citizens have got a total of \$402,500 in compensation for personal injury or the loss of relatives in the war. Another 1,000 who were forced to flee Kuwait have been awarded a total of \$3.7 million in damages, but have not yet been paid.

## Baghdad revives trade links

FROM REUTERS IN DUBAI

IRAQ, ostracised by world oil markets since its invasion of Kuwait six years ago, has found little difficulty in enticing foreign oil companies to rekindle former ties, Gulf-based Western traders said yesterday.

"It has been a long wait. Now it's finally over... Iraq is back as a marketing force."

said a Gulf trader as Iraqi oil exports flowed back onto the international markets under a strictly monitored United Nations "oil for food" plan.

Iraq's petroleum exports had been restricted to limited sales to Jordan, but there was large-scale smuggling by road tankers through Turkey and by ships through Gulf waters.

Muhammad Rasheed, Iraq's Oil Minister, said on Sunday that Baghdad had

signed oil contracts with 11 foreign firms, including some in America which led the force that ejected Iraqi forces from Kuwait in the Gulf War.

U.S. authorities have ordered a Medevac plane to take President Saddam Hussein's son, Uday, to Switzerland for treatment for gun injuries he suffered in an ambush last week, according to the Arabic newspaper *al-Hayat*.

## Rifkind looks forward to key year for progress in Cyprus

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

MALCOLM RIFKIND, the Foreign Secretary, said yesterday that 1997 could be a critical year for Cyprus, but he drove home the message that it was up to the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities to solve the island's long-running problem. Friendly powers like Britain would, however, do their utmost to help to break the "logjam".

At the same time, Mr Rifkind issued a warning that there were too many troops deployed on the island and that any further build-up would be a mistake that could damage intense international efforts to start face-to-face peace talks between the two sides. He hoped these would begin early next year.

Mr Rifkind came with no new peace plan, but detailed a

ten-point proposal that he said could help conciliation. He acknowledged that major problems remained and refused to raise hopes. "I haven't used the word optimism. I have expressed hope and realism," he said after separate talks with President Clerides and Rauf Denktas, the separatist leaders of the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities. They have not met directly for more than two years.

"I sense there is a view in both communities that 1997 is a crucial year which could mark radical progress or be a massive lost opportunity," he said. There were grounds for hope in the fact that, unlike other international trouble-spots, both sides had long agreed on a common objective

which was to reunite under a bi-zonal federation.

However, the exact nature of that federation and issues like sovereignty, territory and security guarantees have bedevilled negotiations. Mr Rifkind's proposals, in keeping with well-known United Nations plans, addressed these concerns in some detail. They spoke of political equality for the two communities, international security guarantees and a redrawing of the present dividing line that could help the return of many refugees from 1974.

Mr Rifkind's official visit, which lasted less than 24 hours, was the first by a senior British government minister since Cyprus gained its independence from Britain 36 years ago.

## Calls for release of Chechnya captives

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

URGENT contacts were under way last night between Russian and Chechen officials to secure the release of 22 servicemen, kidnapped at the weekend by a renegade Chechen guerrilla leader.

In the first serious test of the peace deal signed in August between the Kremlin and Chechen separatists, Salmar Raduyev seized the Russians and vowed to continue fighting against Moscow's rule. He has said that his hostages will be released only when he receives an apology from a local Russian commander and Chechen prisoners are freed.

The missing men, from an Omon paramilitary force, were abducted on Saturday in Dagestan, which borders Chechnya. The Russians have said that, unless the men are freed unharmed, the entire deal ending 21 months of fighting could be jeopardised.

Under the accord, Moscow has agreed to withdraw its troops, 8,000 of whom are still in Chechnya and the Chechens are to hold presidential polls on January 27.

The strain in relations is just what Mr Raduyev wanted. Last January, scores of people died when the Russians tried to free hostages held by the commander in Dagestan. He and his "Lone Wolf" group escaped into nearby hills.

## US statesmen join forces to save Israel peace plan

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

THREE former US Secretaries of State and five other former American officials have called on Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, not to expand Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

The group took the unusual step of sending a letter to Mr Netanyahu's office, warning that any expansion of settlements could destroy the peace process.

It was signed by James Baker and Lawrence Eagleburger — who were Secretaries of State in the George Bush Administration — and Cyrus Vance, who was the Secretary of State under Jimmy Carter. Next to their signatures were those of former National Security Advisers Zbigniew Brzezinski, Frank Carlucci, Brent Scowcroft, Richard Fairbanks and Robert Strauss. Five of them are Republicans and three are Democrats.

In their letter, the former American political leaders and officials said: "We write to you since we fear that one-sided steps — such as settlement expansion — will be very counter-productive to the goal of reaching a solution through negotiations. If it is carried out, it could stop the progress that has been reached in the peace process in the past two decades."

"We therefore called you, just as we called everyone on the Arab side, as the Prime Minister of Israel, to prevent one-sided action that will prevent an agreed-upon arrangement and a lasting and comprehensive peace."

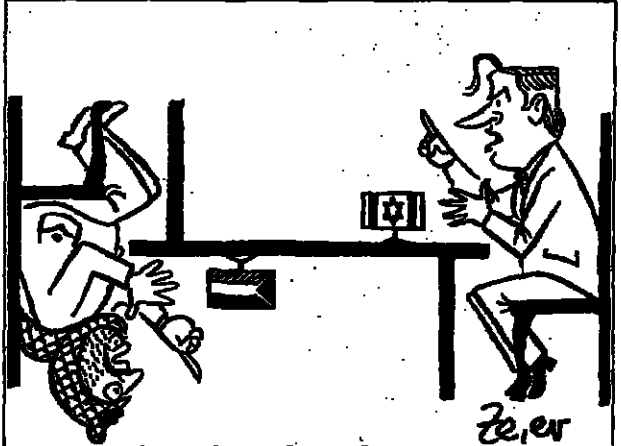
David Bar-Ilan, Mr Netanyahu's communications director, confirmed that Israel had received the letter and was not surprised by its sentiments. He pointed out that George Schultz and Henry Kissinger, both former US Secretaries of State, refused to add their names to the letter.

"These eight people were known as not the most friendly to Israel to say the least... Israel's real friends not only refused to sign this letter but are expressing their support for our policies all the time."

The Israelis and the Palestinians, under American pressure, agreed in principle yesterday to resume negotiations on troop redeployment in Hebron.

Yassir Arafat, the PLO leader, expressed his sorrow for the killing of a Jewish settler woman and her son by Palestinian terrorists last week. "Please accept my sincere condolences over the death of the mother and her son," he said. He said he had called on George Habash, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, to "stop the terror". Mr Habash's Damascus-based group last week admitted responsibility for the attack.

In reply, Mr Netanyahu expressed his sorrow over the killing last week "by mistake" of a Palestinian worker by an Israeli. It was the leaders' first conversation since September.



Zeev in Tel Aviv's Ma'ariv, takes a pessimistic view of talks between the Israeli and Palestinian leaders



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## Border car theft drives Germans wild

Heiner was still distraught as he left Berlin police headquarters. On Saturday, a few hours after the European Union made a ringing commitment to fighting organised crime, he had lost his pride and joy, a cream Audi.

"It's probably already on its way to Kiev or somewhere," he grumbled. Discovering the theft, reporting it and flicking through an album of suspects had taken 24 hours. From Berlin it is 30 miles to the Polish border.

The trail does not go completely cold when the car crosses Germany's eastern frontier, but the bureaucratic paperchase certainly slows things down. Heiner, a software salesman in his thirties, is right in assuming that his pale beauty is now blue or black, with different plates. By today or tomorrow, the car might be ferrying a Romanian businessman to his favourite Bucharest disco.

Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, wants an "operational police force" in Europe

Vehicle crime is so serious it poses a political threat to Helmut Kohl and lends urgency to his plan for a European police unit, Roger Boyes reports from Berlin

to crack down on organised crime — and East-West car theft is high on the agenda. Many citizens are beginning to lose faith in a Europe which, by dint of open borders and a single market, has made the Continent a lucrative hunting ground for car thieves. The car theft figures — 130,000 a year in Germany, 287,000 in France — are making an impact on public acceptance of another of Herr Kohl's European goals — to enlarge the EU eastwards by 2000.

The Chancellor knows votes are at stake. In his briefing to German journalists at Dublin, he said: "The whole subject of mafia activity, drugs and crime will decide the general election in 1998." Europe had to be made flexible enough, he said, to

deal with cross-border crime. Herr Kohl nowadays avoids public mention of the phrase "European FBI", but the idea of a federal police unit still has him in thrall. Europol has extended its brief to take in organised car theft and the Chancellor wants the unit to be operational before the October 1998 election.

The daily practice of the Schengen agreement has drifted away from the utopia of continental Europe allowing the unimpeded travel possible across the United States. The Germans have been positioning vehicle monitoring units just behind the western frontiers with France and the Benelux states.

The thieves' destinations are not only eastern. Stolen

German cars are often shifted quickly to Belgium, resprayed and renumbered, and then taken south to Spain and North Africa. Many a BMW parked overnight in a multi-storey car park has ended up in Morocco. But the main demand is in the East: the new rich of the post-communist states are hungry for fast cars. Legal purchase and import from the West is very costly.

Professor Ulrich Sieber of Würzburg University has drafted a report on behalf of the German police recommending a European car registration system. He urges an end to the registering of cars by post — all vehicles should be physically presented to an authorised examiner. And when a car is wrecked, its papers should be sent immediately to the insurer who should cross-register the documents with the police. The reason is that gangs are buying up wrecked cars, ostensibly for scrap, and then using the identity documents to cover a new stolen car of the same make.

The Poles are beginning to

## Toy store sets up wish list for small shoppers

BY QUENTIN LETTS

AN AMERICAN toy store company has introduced wedding list-style registries for children. The scheme encourages children to name as many as 25 toys they would like, regardless of cost.

Their youthful desires are placed on a nationwide computer which fretful uncles and aunts, if uncertain about what to give "Junior" for Christmas, may consult. Toys "R" Us has introduced its children's gift registry to an initial test sample of 140 stores in the United States. The response has been enthusiastic and the registries are likely to spread.

At one Manhattan outlet, a Toys "R" Us sales assistant, engulfed by pipping six-year-olds, said the response had been amazing, before she disappeared from sight amid a melee of small hands. The company introduced the idea after the success of a similar scheme for parents of infants.

Debbie Williams, a spokeswoman, claimed the registry would "save people a lot of headaches". To register, a child must fill out a form, ticking required presents after a tour of the aisles — just as betrothed couples do at Peter Jones.

On registration, the child receives a wad of gift registry cards which can be sent to relatives and friends. They are advised that they can go to their local Toys "R" Us and buy the toy, which will be delivered to the recipient's home address.

Lori Mammen, a parental guidance consultant, attacked the idea as an unwanted commercialisation of the traditional letters children write to Father Christmas. "This encourages... materialism, depersonalises families and discourages the whole idea of giving," said Ms Mammen, editor of *Think*, an educational journal.

"We already make children expect too much, and people spend too much on kids' presents. Now children will just think 'put in your order and you will get what you want'," she said.

At the weekend there was further evidence that Christmas shopping is no place for fainthearts when a New Brunswick store worker had to be taken to hospital after being crushed by over-eager consumers.



Santa: threatened with redundancy

Anton comes back on ch...

mean army are back on ch...



# Clinton comes out smiling in effort to charm critics



Clinton described his fondness for thrillers

FROM TOM RHODES  
IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON embarked on a new campaign to win the hearts of an increasingly sceptical media and public yesterday, offering his most personal interview since re-election and describing his plans to become an active citizen after leaving office.

In a wide-ranging hour-long discussion on C-SPAN, the Washington public affairs channel, Mr Clinton discussed his likes and dislikes, personal flaws and future ambitions. He even ruminated about his place in history and the family's wish to adopt a child. At no

time, however, did he mention the continuing investigations over Whitewater and other matters which could still tarnish his second term. Instead, he took issue with the "hostile, shrill and overwhelmingly right-wing" talk radio which has been an enemy of him, his wife Hillary and his Administration.

Attacks on him during the election campaign obliged White House staff to advise the Clintons that they should not "open up" in public. Aides concluded after the first two years that the First Family had been over-exposed, most notably when Mr Clinton was asked on MTV, the music channel, whether he wore "boxers or briefs". The interview

provided the most telling example of how the President is trying to humanise himself, for his second term and launch a goodwill strike in advance of next year's political battles.

He adopted a conversational manner in sounding a familiar refrain about the lack of civility in American society and denying that he was a political opportunist who tried to please everyone. The complaints were clearly designed to win over the American media, which are apparently willing to follow the trail of scandal to the door of the second-term Clinton White House.

"I'm a Southerner, you know," he said. "I was raised to believe you

don't have to prove your manhood by going around picking fights with people and bad-mouthing them, and that you can be courteous and kind to people while you are disagreeing with them."

The President described his favourite book, *One Hundred Years of Solitude* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez, as "a rhapsodic, mystical, marvellous work", but went on to say that he most enjoyed mystery thrillers which he reads for 30 minutes before going to sleep.

"I'm an addict. That's one of my little cheap thrills outlets. I'm always reading mysteries," said Mr Clinton, who claimed that his own work, *Between Hope and History*—

published under his name but little more than a compilation of the White House speechwriting department—had not sold because there had been no book tour.

Mr Clinton said he spoke enough German to understand much of what was said by Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, and added that he had not been a politician he might have become a businessman, a trial lawyer or even a writer.

He and his wife would not conceive or adopt a child while in the White House but might consider the possibility at a later date when, Mr Clinton said, he would not run for federal office.

"You know, you kind of don't

want to be hanging around getting in anybody else's hair. I'd like to be an active citizen," he said. "I'd like to think that my fellow Americans still care what I think... I kid everybody and say I might run for the school board some day at home. I think that may be the hardest job in America today—except for being President."

The White House has been eagerly courting the Washington media. Aides appear to have advised Mr Clinton that he should return to a spirit of openness. When he suggested that he might write a newspaper column, however, some must have wondered whether the President had gone a bridge too far.

## Papuan army accused of attack on church

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

ONE of the world's least-reported conflicts resumed yesterday with the publication by Australian newspapers of photographs showing the bodies of nine people, including four children, allegedly killed by Papua New Guinea soldiers on the secessionist island of Bougainville.

The unarmed civilians reportedly died in a mortar attack on a Roman Catholic church at Malapita in south Bougainville on December 1. The photographs, also showing the collapse of the church, were smuggled out and then passed to secessionist leaders in Australia.

Defence experts agreed the pictures were consistent with the impact of a mortar. Speaking from the neighbouring Solomon Islands, Dale Tom, whose two brothers died in the attack, said a mortar went through the palm roof of the church with devastating ef-

fect. "There were pieces everywhere—pieces of bodies," Mr Tom said.

A spokeswoman for the Bougainville secessionists, Marilyn Havani, said that an officer in the Bougainville Revolutionary Army had taken the photographs after the bodies were removed from the church. "I have absolutely no doubt that they are genuine," she added.

But Brigadier-General Jerry Singirok, the commander of Papua New Guinea's defence forces, denied any knowledge of the attack. Colonel Jack Tuat, the chief of staff, refused to confirm or deny details of the bombing.

Hundreds of people have died in the Bougainville conflict since a declaration of independence by separatists which forced the closure of the giant Panguna copper mine. The Australian-owned operation, one of the biggest

open-cast mines in the world, earned up to £15 million a day and accounted for 40 per cent of Papua New Guinea's export earnings. It employed nearly 4,000 people and provided about 17 per cent of Papua New Guinea's revenue. However, many of the local people felt that they were not enjoying a fair share of the profits and demanded compensation.

When the Government refused, the Bougainville Revolutionary Army forced the closure of the copper mine and went on an orgy of bombing, burning and shooting. The fighting and hardship that followed claimed an estimated 13,000 lives.

Australia contributes £6 million annually to Papua New Guinea's defence funds, which has allowed the country to continue its Bougainville offensive, now entering its ninth year.



Bodies of victims laid out after an alleged mortar attack by Papua New Guinea forces on a church on the separatist island of Bougainville

## Corsican separatist leader surrenders

Ajaccio, Corsica: François Santoni, the hardline Corsican separatist leader, surrendered to police on the French Mediterranean island yesterday, hours after his girlfriend was arrested in an extortion inquiry. M Santoni, 36, who had been hiding for months in the Corsica hills, gave himself up in the northern town of Bastia and was being flown to Paris for questioning by anti-terrorism magistrates, police said.

At the same time, separatists fired machineguns at a gendarmerie station in the southern town of Bonifacio, but there were no casualties. M Santoni is head of Cuscola Nazionalista, a legal front for the historic wing of the outlawed Corsican National Liberation Front (FLNC), which has claimed responsibility for dozens of attacks on Corsica and in mainland France in the past few months. (Reuters)

## Coup plotter reprieved

Seoul: A South Korean appeals court commuted a death sentence on the former President, Chun Doo Hwan, cut the jail term of Roh Tae Woo, another former President, from 22½ years to 17, and released five tycoons who were accused of bribery. The two former Presidents had been convicted in August of mutiny and treason over a 1979 coup and of amassing a huge slush fund. The decisions outraged victims of a military atrocity in Kwangju in 1980, and softened the impact of a drive to clean up corruption. (Reuters)

## Serb opposition win

Belgrade: A court in Smederevska Palanka ordered the local electoral commission to give control of the municipal council to the opposition Zajedno (Together) coalition, a Zajedno spokesman said. The ruling came as protesters around Serbia prepared to begin the twenty-ninth day of demonstrations against electoral fraud, which deprived Zajedno of victory in 14 of the 18 largest conurbations, including Belgrade. (Reuters)

## Mother Teresa better

Calcutta: Doctors gave Mother Teresa a mild electric shock yesterday for the second time in six days to correct her faltering heart. Doctors treating the 86-year-old nun at the B.M. Birla Heart Research Centre said in a regular medical update that they performed the procedure in the afternoon. "Her condition is stabilising," they said. (Reuters)

## Abacha aide targeted

Lagos: An army colonel, one of the closest aides of General Sani Abacha, Nigeria's military ruler, escaped a bomb attack on his convoy. Police said Colonel Muhammad Marwa, administrator of Lagos state, was not hurt but two men were seriously injured. Six suspects were held. (Reuters)

## 'Hitman' in jail suicide

Caltanissetta, Sicily: Giuseppe Biondo, right, a reputed Mafia member charged over the murder of the anti-Mafia judge Paolo Borsellino and five bodyguards, has hanged himself in his cell, prison officials said. Biondo, 39, was the second person charged in connection with the 1992 car bombing to commit suicide in jail this month. Giacomo Giuseppe Gambino, 55, hanged himself in Milan's San Vittore jail on December 1. (Reuters)



## War 'hero' hitch for Major's India trip

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS  
IN DELHI

JOHN MAJOR'S planned visit to India next month, designed to push his initiative for greater trading ties with Britain, has collided with history and, more formidably, Bengali politics.

British officials planning his trip thought that it might be a touching gesture if the Prime Minister went to Nagaland, in the far northeast of India on the Burmese border. There he would pay a floral tribute to Commonwealth citizens who repulsed Japanese invaders in the Second World War.

This was one of a few dozen ideas submitted to the Indian External Affairs Ministry, which initially saw no problem with it. But it was opposed by the state government of West Bengal, worried about upsetting admirers of Subhas Chandra Bose, the Bengali and Indian nationalist who raised the Indian National Army with German and Japanese help to fight the British in Asia. He disappeared after a plane crash in 1945.

Bose's attraction to fascism has never dulled his hero status in communist West Bengal. Calcutta is preparing to celebrate the centenary of his birth in just over a year, and the West Bengal administration told the External Affairs Ministry in Delhi that this would not be a good time for Mr Major to honour those who fought against Bose's forces.

The matter was so sensitive that it was referred by I.K. Gujral, the External Affairs Minister, to Jyoti Basu, the state's Chief Minister, for his opinion. Mr Basu replied that he was unenthusiastic.

The idea is still officially on the table but the External Affairs Ministry is no longer happy about it and the visit will almost certainly not go ahead. That might have happened anyway because of security concerns; local Naga tribesmen are waging an increasingly violent campaign to stop outsiders from settling in their traditional homeland.

Pressures of domestic politics permitting, Mr Major will also visit Bangladesh and Pakistan next month.

## Mandela attends summit to discuss fate of Zaire

FROM SAM KILEY IN NAIROBI

PRESIDENT Mandela arrived in Kenya yesterday to join other African leaders for a summit on the future of Zaire, which will in fact be decided largely by rebels who were not invited to the talks.

The presence of Mr Mandela, who is much admired but has little influence north of the Limpopo river, indicated the deep concern Africa's leaders have over the break-up of Zaire, which is the size of Western Europe and has enormous mineral resources. His visit to the summit lasted for only an hour.

Minerals will be higher on the South African President's agenda than most other subjects as Anglo American, the mining giant, and its associated company, De Beers, have

deep interests in gold, diamonds, cobalt and copper in Zaire. The rebels, the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire, led by Laurent Kabila, have given international firms assurances that they will be able to work in the areas under Mr Kabila's control. So far these include North and South Kivu provinces.

The alliance, which has been backed by Rwanda, has not succeeded in winning the support of other opposition groups in Shaba province, the centre of the copper-mining industry, or in East and West Kasai, where most of Zaire's alluvial diamonds come from. Although these areas have been hotbeds of secessionist agitation, the local leadership

appears to be happy with a form of de facto autonomy from Kinshasa for the time being.

This has been an enormous relief to the leading mining companies and the South African Government. Pretoria is deeply worried, however, that the status quo cannot last in the face of the rebel onslaught and the failing health of President Mobutu.

The leaders, who were called to Nairobi by the Kenyan President, Daniel arap Moi, and who included the Presidents of Uganda, Rwanda, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Tanzania and the Ethiopian Prime Minister, were meeting late last night at State House, and are expected to end their summit at a banquet today.

## Cape vigilantes clash with police at airport

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

MUSLIM vigilantes fought running battles with police for more than an hour at Cape Town's international airport yesterday over their demands that drug-detection equipment be installed at customs posts.

The illegal protest by Pagad—People Against Gangsterism and Drugs—and the subsequent riot caused disruption as hundreds of British tourists began arriving in South Africa for a Christmas break. The group's gambit of demonstrating at the airport and other choice tourist venues has brought it into direct conflict with the Government.

Five people were injured in the riot, including two journalists, after 200 Pagad members pelted police with stones. Police retaliated with rubber bullets and teargas.

The violence erupted near

the airport entrance when Pagad refused to disperse. Witnesses said the marchers, chanting "Mandela is a dictator", were given ten minutes to leave. As the march leader tried to turn them back, a woman hurled an object at police, triggering the riot.

Pagad sprang to prominence this year when it shot and burnt to death Rashad Staggie, one of Cape Town's most feared gangsters. The vigilante group initially won the support of South Africans but there is growing concern about its tactics.

The Government has banned Pagad from carrying weapons and wearing masks during its protests. Last week President Mandela warned it that the Government would not tolerate protests at airports and tourist venues.



Romina Andrea Vilarte recovering in hospital

## Child survives in jungle

Posadas: A three-year-old girl has been found alive in a jungle in northeastern Argentina after being lost for six days.

Romina Andrea Vilarte is being treated in hospital for infected insect bites and scratches on her arms and legs after being discovered naked

and dehydrated on Friday by police about two miles from her parents' home in rural Campo Viera. Authorities said that she had wandered away from home and survived by eating fruit, nuts and tree roots. It rained heavily for three of the days that she was lost. (AP)

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## US esteem sinks as ships are lost off Okinawa

Tokyo: Two small US Navy ships sank off Okinawa in separate incidents yesterday, causing fresh embarrassment for America's military in Japan.

The loss of the two amphibious craft, in which all 21 crew members were rescued unharmed, came as Japanese minesweepers started searching for an unexploded bomb dropped in Okinawan waters by a US warplane. The bomb, which was jettisoned by a Marine Corps

jet last Tuesday, fell harmlessly into the sea, but a controversy has flared over the way the US military and Japanese authorities handled the incident.

Yesterday's loss of the two light amphibious recovery craft off Camp Schwab is likely to fuel Okinawan anxiety about possible accidents involving the Americans. A spokesman for the US Navy said that it was not known why the first ship had sunk. Its crew

transferred to the second one, which also sank after developing engine and steering problems.

Okinawa houses more than 75 per cent of all US military facilities in Japan. An outcry against their presence flared up last year after the rape of a local schoolgirl by three American servicemen. Two weeks ago, Japan and the US agreed to streamline the bases, without reducing the 28,000 personnel. (Reuters)



## Trading trash



**Giles Coren**  
on the two-way  
transatlantic  
traffic in  
celebrities

The proposed displacement of Sylvester Stallone from Miami to London looks set to cause a crisis on the international celebrity market, with a big rush on London occasioned by the weakness of the celebrity pound in relation to the celebrity dollar. The market may soon go into free-fall. For a long time there was a sort of equilibrium between Britain and America, and despite a deregulated market there was a reasonable balance of trade.

They took David Hockney. We swiped Stanley Kubrick. Tracey Ullman defected with her own unique brand of in-your-face humour. Ruby Wax crossed the sea to make good the deficit, with her own unique brand of in-your-face humour.

In journalism we took a gamble, going very long on glamourpusses such as Anna Wintour. Tina Brown and Zoë Heller, not to mention former *Modern Review* editor Toby Young. Expecting to recoup our investment we got, instead, Janet Daley and a brief visit from Bill Bryson.

If they are sending us Stallone then we want to offload some of our rubbish in return, thank you very much.

We tried giving them Liz and Hugh and they sent them right back, via Paris. Perhaps they would consider taking Chris Evans. Anthea Turner and Tamara Beckwith as some sort of recompense. Notwithstanding the attempt to kidnap Wallace and Gromit some weeks ago.

The Duchess of York is also planning a sharp exit. She apparently wants to live in Wyoming, the enormous state best known as the place "where the deer and the antelope play, and seldom is heard a discouraging word..." She should be so lucky.

If we are going to export our Royal Family, then we will expect something in return — like the Jacksons, Fergie for LaToya, Michael for Diana, etc. It all seems to work rather nicely.

Madonna dropped a hint recently about moving here, and unsubstantiated rumours put Cher's new address as somewhere in London's Docklands. But two ageing rock chicks would hardly make up for the loss of Fergie and Di. Then again...

The thing to bear in mind is that American celebrities think London is the best city in the whole wide world and they just love the audiences here, and want to stay forever. They always say so on chat shows, so it must be true. All the same, Michael Jackson said exactly that on a

recent tour of Budapest — and if Jacko is planning to buy a house in Hungary, then Billy Jean is not his lover.

Look at *Whose Line Is It Anyway?*. Every single performer is North American: Mike McShane, Greg Proops, Ryan Stiles. This is a good deal. They are funny. Let us only despatch Jim Davidson, Angus Deayton and the whole cast of *2Point4 Children* and we will be able to lay down the groundwork for parity.

There is still work to be done, however. How on earth did we manage to get lumbered with Rachel Williams (soulless pierced thing from *The Girlie Show*), Katie Puckrick and Caprice Bourret? Does a total failure to charm, move, or sexually arouse Americans mean that we British will necessarily lap them up?

We did manage to offload Amanda de Cadenet, it must be said. But it was a Pyrrhic victory.

As far as really big names go, our days of export are past. Where once we sent out the Collenses, Jackie and Joan, to fly our elegant flag, today it is one-way traffic. Tom Cruise has fallen in love with our little island since

making *Mission: Impossible* here, and regularly rents Lord Hindlip's Holland Park townhouse for £10,000 a week. Even his children are going native, attending school in Britain while Pa films *Eyes Wide Shut*, a movie by, coincidentally, Stanley Kubrick. Richard Gere is said to be on the brink, and Elle Macpherson, once Australian but American now by residence, said on *Clive Anderson All Talk* on Sunday that she was considering a move to London. The Body makes The Move.

We receive all this talentless celebrity, only to export true home-grown talent hoping, by the move, to become celebrated: think of Gary Oldman, Tim Roth, Emily Lloyd and now, apparently, Pulp frontman Jarvis Cocker.

It was once so different, with bona fide exchanges of genuinely valuable human commodities.

They gave us T.S. Eliot. We gave them W.H. Auden. They gave us Henry James, we tried to give them Charles Dickens but he returned, it is said, disillusioned. Even quite recently Kingsley Amis defected to teach at Princeton, taking with him the young Martin, who returned but never quite got over it.

So what will Sly do now, cut off from Hollywood? Will it be the RSC? Merchant Ivory? Insiders at the BBC know better. He is, in fact, pencilled in as the long-lost Mitchell brother from *EastEnders*.

Shaven-headed and ready to ass-kick, the short, ugly Sly is crossing the pond for no other reason than to stake his claim as top geezer on the manor, sing a few rounds of "Knees up Muvva Braan" and love his mum.



Arriving? Stallone



Leaving? The Duchess

John Peel tells Noreen Taylor about the other great passion of his life

## 'A world without Sheila was impossible. I've never known fear like it in my life'

Legendary disc jockey! A Radio One institution! A Sixties survivor who still counts! A Past-it Pillar of Post-punk Society!

At 57, John Peel is naturally rather resistant to the hackneyed tags that tend to accompany his name.

"I don't look like a legend, never worn a tartan suit or carried a guitar," goes the flat, lugubrious, Liverpoolian drone. "I look like a mini-cab driver. My children find having a C-list celebrity as a father mildly embarrassing. I think I'm fairly anonymous-looking though."

I thought so, too, until he started to leave the Soho restaurant, when heads turned and subdued murmurings of "Hi John" greeted him as he passed tables.

Self-effacement, a hippie Sixties thing, is very big with Peel. "I really am someone who got lucky," he keeps insisting. "A guy who drifted

into a position that I used to think would be the job of my dreams. Still is, in fact... playing records, being a conduit for other people's talent. That's how I see myself."

Yet he is not what you see or hear. He has become the man he wants to be.

John Robert Parker Ravenscroft, middle class, public school educated son of a Cheshire cotton broker, fled his class, his customs and prejudices, for one he felt more at home in. Cool, lefty, laid-back proletarian.

With everybody busy downclassing in the Sixties, Peel followed the trend, adopting a Liverpool accent, which fitted in perfectly with his DJ role.

"My emotional growth has been reversed if you like," he says, trying to explain his background. "As a child I never cried. Not even when getting a six-inch wound stitched, not even as a seven-year-old on the train to boarding school when the carriage was filled with blubbing boys. In my parents' set I was famous as the boy who never cried. Now I do it all the time... well not exactly, but I had my first big blub 20 years ago when our William was born."

"Sheila and I didn't think we'd want children. We saw ourselves as a unit, content with each other. Then Sheila started reading *Just William* stories to me in bed, and after a while we began to feel... oh wouldn't it be nice to have our own little William."

"Mm," he mutters, glancing worriedly at my pad. "I can't imagine what that's going to look like in print."

For more than 30 years, Peel has been the seminal voice of serious rock, too. Never Boyzone. Never nursery bands. We're taking avant-garde, underground rock, man.

Peel's curiosity dissipates once the band has made it... his interest, he claims, is ignited largely by the unknown and the obscure. Doesn't it ever get tedious... year on year of increasingly moronic guitar riffs. Electric anarchy! Doesn't he ever long for the grown-up world of jazz, big bands, Ella, Mozart?

"Yeah, I know what you mean," concedes Peel reluctantly. "Trouble is, I've never reached puberty. Anyway, Benjamin Britten can be just as difficult to come to terms with as the music I play," he adds, an edgy defence creeping into his voice.

Does his wife enjoy the sound of endless tapes being played? Tapes flooding in from every aspirant Dylan on the planet.

"Only to the extent where she'll appear in my room dancing, or if the weather's nice, I'll see her leaping around the lawn outside."

He's a great talker, a natural story-teller. Funny, frank, wise, modest... someone whose company enriches and informs, who comes armed with a cache of anecdotes collected from years presenting pop programmes.

Currently, there are two weekend Radio One shows, a British Forces Broadcasting Service one whose prehistoric origins are long lost, as well as a BBC World Service slot.

So how come you rarely do television John? "Cos I look funny. And I don't think I'm very good."

Channel Four's *Travels With My Camera*, scheduled to be shown on Sunday, proves otherwise. Peel takes



"I don't look like a legend, never worn a tartan suit. I look like a mini-cab driver"

his battered old left-hand drive Mercedes off to Berlin where he meets up with Schneider, a punk from the former East Germany. Before the fall of the Wall, Schneider used to stay up half the night listening as his hero broadcast to the British forces.

Peel describes his heroes as people who have managed to create something that's perfect. Such as?

"Well, I'd loved to have written something as beautiful as *Teenage Kicks* by The Undertones, the ultimate, most perfect record ever made. Then there's the perfect painting, one of Paul Klee's. The perfect band has to be The Fall, from Manchester. My favourite for 20 years."

Aside from obscure rock bands and Liverpool Football Club,

John Peel's great passion in life is his wife, Sheila. The woman known to his listeners as 'The Pig'. As titles go, it is not perhaps the most elegant of nomenclatures? "She snorts when she laughs, which is rather a lot."

Later, when the conversation moves round to Sheila again, he spoke of her moving, and in a way men rarely do when speaking of their wives, or of their marriage. The emotional bruising he suffered last June when his wife collapsed with a brain haemorrhage, remains palpable.

"Flossie, who's 14, youngest of our four children, rang me to say Sheila had been admitted to Addenbrooke Hospital in Cambridge. I was stuck on the Isle of Man, couldn't get back. I remember this hideous blackness descending, the

God-awful trying to struggle through it, trying not to think... you know... what if? The world without Sheila! Just trying to move past that, through that pain. Impossible. Never known fear like it in my life. Children and I, we sat round a table waiting during the 5½-hour operation. They were wonderful, I was so proud of them — forgot all the arguments over the pizza boxes left in their bedrooms."

"Sheila is recovering now, not yet the blur round the

house she usually is, handling all practicalities, dealing with the Aga man. Unlike me, the airy aesthete. I'm always uneasy when I'm away from her now. Hate being away from her anyway, if I'm honest. Until I was 50, I used to spend 20 hours a week on the motorway, between London and Suffolk where we live. I've cut that down to Saturday and Sunday. Yeah, I come home Saturday nights. Have to. Otherwise I get homesick. I'm constantly checking on her, even during the night when I go to the loo. I have to switch on the light, just to be sure. I know I'll be doing that for the rest of my days."

"Sounds as though I'm describing the family from Disneyland with everyone at the front door, jumping up and down shouting 'Hello Daddy', which it certainly isn't."

"It's just that my family life contains the easy warmth I never knew as a child. I find myself envying my children their childhood. Not that I'm blaming my parents, they were helpless having come from the same world."

"Meeting Sheila, who comes

from Bradford, from an Irish Catholic family, a background so radically different from my own, helped to break the cycle. Becoming part of Sheila's family was almost as wonderful as meeting the woman herself."

They met, he recalls with perfect clarity, in the mid-Sixties in a television studio.

Sheila, a graduate trainee teacher, was in the audience with a group of friends.

She was wearing dark green, looked sensational and I sent her a note with my telephone number. She thought I was a twerp but her friends forced her to ring me. I remember the scuffling sound of them all in the telephone box. The note? It probably said something about love and peace. I tended to go on a lot about that in those days, and girls I went out with... pretend models and actresses, would sigh "Ooh, John, that's really beautiful". And then Sheila came along and told me not to be such a daft bugger. Pretty soon it was just the two of us, travelling round the country in the back of a Dormobile looking for our dream home.

"I'm very happy, fully contented. For me, depression comes when I hear of people being treated harshly, when I realise how badly off other people are compared to me."

"Like Elvis I used to believe that if he'd come and lived with us for a couple of weeks, we'd have got him sorted out. Charles and Diana, too. Trouble with people like them is that they're not rooted in any kind of recognisable reality. What they need is someone like me telling them: 'Right, now we're off to Sainsbury's then we're going to pick up the kids from school. Then we've got to feed the animals.' I really mean that."

# TOMORROW

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# 'The British have a traditional reluctance to become busybodies'

Two months after she launched her manifesto in *The Times*, Frances Lawrence reflects on the enormous response and answers her critics

Instinct, not a desire for sympathy, provoked me to share my thoughts in these pages some weeks ago. Refusing to label myself a victim, I should not wish to be indulged as one. I recognise, however, that my claim on public attention is, ironically, the consequence of tragic loss.

As such my position has been bracketed with the parents of Dunblane. Any influence we may have had on public debate has been attacked by some as a surrender to sentiment. I can understand that point of view and appreciate how unattractive it would be if politicians were moved to pass laws simply to make memorials.

However, the Dunblane parents and I would not, in our different ways, have had any influence if we had not found ourselves articulating the settled and serious views of the majority of our fellow citizens. The corporate soul of the nation is crying out for change. The action taken by Parliament on handguns and combat knives is a recognition of pressing public demand. The law is not being altered as a pious acknowledgement of any loss, no matter how great, but as a recognition that the overwhelming majority of the public wish to make loss less likely in future.

I am not a natural crusader but I am writing again now, primarily because I feel I owe it to those who have spoken out and picked up pens in my support. Dealing with the response to my previous article and talking to interested people has absorbed most of my time over the past two months. Organisations, from international charities to community groups, have written in support and made a series of practical suggestions. Of equal value are the hundreds of letters written to me by individuals expressing their solidarity.

None who had read the letters I have received could fail to accept the need for urgent remedial action to restore civility to our country. Many are dispatches from those who have been bruised by what they see as the breakdown of our society. So many have recorded, in grief and bewilderment, the countless, casual acts of brutality that demean us all. I am haunted by the pain apparent in letters from teenagers whose lives have been stilted or damaged.

At the same time I am thrilled to read those letters from children as young as 11, who are taking steps to improve perceived ills. I have been impressed by the willingness of the influential to recognise the need for change. At meetings with civil servants and business people there has been a genuine desire to respond.

There has been criticism, of course. Cynicism has greeted the response of some politicians. Commentators have argued that it is the looming election, rather than any intimation of morality that has prompted action. My perception is that many of the ministers and MPs to whom I have spoken have devoted time and shown sensitivity to the concerns I have raised, out of proportion to any possible electoral benefit. Besides, it would be a perverse form of purity that insisted no action was taken to improve our society because the motives of the actors could not be verified as of the best. The Home Secretary plans to establish an award to encourage good citizenship. It will complement existing initiatives and inspire others to promote an understanding of civic values in the young. The main opposition parties have indicated their general support and many organisations have welcomed it and given valuable advice.

**The young need to feel pride and hope in their society**

The values reflected in this award can be caught from good example but, sadly, this does not always exist. Thus, logically, they should be taught. Some critics have argued that teaching civic responsibility in schools would be repressive. They have scorned the idea of "A" levels in morality. It would appear that in a desperate bid to bolster their argument, they are playing devil's advocate — if such an absurd notion had even been contemplated it would be worthy of scorn. The real issue is that educational accomplishment and examination success are hollow achievements without a sense of our civilisation and an appreciation of the values that sustain it. The history of the great religions and all that is

most noble in philosophy show that it is not only inspiring role models but also practical precepts that underpin good conduct. From the Ten Commandments to the teachings of Kant, the lesson is that people need to be taught a code by which to live and to attain true happiness.

One writer took me to task for having the effrontery to call for improvements in our society from the comfort of a middle-class home. It is a valid point. Many of us in the suburbs are insulated from the harshest evidence of social breakdown. I heard about it from my husband's work in inner-city schools. I met it firsthand when the ugly violence of the streets penetrated my family home last Christmas and brought me into contact with the emptiness of lives led by the abandoned young. My situation is, indeed, different from theirs. Pain is not analogous. There seems to be no reason why one should not try to comprehend and try to help. Further, it is not only patronising but absurd to suggest that people in straitened circumstances have no choice. The vast majority do not engage in criminal activity or anti-social behaviour as a way out. Of course, it is difficult and that is why urgent help must be given. Young people need to feel hope and pride in themselves and their society.

Many organisations exist which strive to reduce feelings of alienation and failure. The Dick Sheppard Youth Centre in Brixton and The Prince's Trust are two out of many which work with young people to promote self-worth and to encourage enterprise, self-reliance and a chance to escape dependency. Politicians have responded to a call from the suburbs to change the law on knives but it is in the inner cities that the greatest benefit will be felt. And of course, the suburbs are far from immune to improvement. Television and computer screens have supplanted the natural world and the printed page as the primary source of wonder. This compartment culture leads to adolescent self-absorption and — if we are not careful — the imagination of the next generation will become impoverished. Nature programmes are wonderful but they are not nature. Paintings on a computer screen are not art. Art, like nature, breathes.

It is not only this narrowing of horizons that concerns me, however: it is a weakening of belief in the power of the individual. The pace of technological change, far from empowering, is engendering a sense of helplessness and an enforced apathy which mark the turning away from society and the withdrawal into insubstantial private pleasures that only accelerate the fraying of civic bonds.

And yet people can rediscover their capacity to make a difference. If, in the words of E.M. Forster we "only connect" then we can regenerate society. Through correspondence and conversation, between neighbours, in schools and churches and by involvement in voluntary bodies, the individual can find his voice amplified. The British have a traditional reluctance to become busybodies. Unless we participate and accept civic responsibility, we will lose control over the formation of our society to the bully and the unaccountable authoritarian.



Frances and Lucien Lawrence: "I am haunted by the pain apparent in letters from teenagers whose lives have been stilted or damaged"

## Party leaders join widow's cause

Murder of head sparks national crusade to reform violent society

The murder of a young man, Philip Lawrence, has sparked a national crusade to reform violent society. The Labour government, the Conservative Party, and the Liberal Democrats have all pledged to support a campaign to reduce gun violence and improve the lives of young people.

## Can Frances turn tide of violence?

WIDOW'S CRUSADE TO CHANGE SOCIETY

A personal view by Frances Lawrence

Frances Lawrence, whose son Philip was murdered, has launched a crusade to change society. She has written a manifesto in *The Times* and has gathered a large number of supporters.

Parties sign up to manifesto of civic values

The Labour government, the Conservative Party, and the Liberal Democrats have all pledged to support a campaign to reduce gun violence and improve the lives of young people.

Moral crusade gathers pace

Parties sign up to manifesto of civic values

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## I will fight to see good comes of Philip's murder

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# The balance of Teuton and Gaul

Anatole Kaletsky says Britain must be the pivot of Europe

Creation of a European monetary union is now almost inevitable. That is the bad news that came last week out of Dublin. The good news, however, is almost equally clear. France won a decisive victory over Germany in the monetary battle of Dublin. As a result, it is now almost certain that the euro will be a relatively soft currency, managed more in the style of the French franc and Italian lira than the present-day German mark. This is what economists and investors of an intellectual bent sometimes describe as a "paradigm shift": an event that suddenly changes the way the world appears.

The paradigm shift from a hard to a soft euro is good news for both Britain and Europe from an economic perspective, since it could give Europe more pragmatic macroeconomic management, and help to pull it out of the morass of stagnation and unemployment. But there are even more important ramifications for Britain in Europe's shift from a hard to a soft monetary union.

The tangible evidence of the shift at Dublin was the effective shredding of the German-inspired stability pact. The French and their allies (including Britain) diluted to the point of invisibility the German proposals for levying fines on governments in the monetary union which allegedly mismanage their domestic finances.

## Germany's stability pact was shredded in Dublin

The original terms of the stability pact proposed by Germany would have imposed enormous financial penalties on many countries, with the money flowing into the coffers of the EU and being used ultimately to reduce the contributions of the its master countries, above all Germany.

If the German version of a stability pact had existed over the past 25 years, the cumulative fines imposed on France, never mind Italy, would have been greater, when adjusted for inflation, than the total reparations paid by Germany after the First World War. Fortunately, nothing of this kind is now likely to happen.

The deal agreed in Dublin leaves decisions on penalising economic mismanagement entirely to politicians. It also ensures that a sufficient majority to impose fines will never be mustered. Because of the EU rules on qualified majority voting, Italy, for example, would need the support of only two other large countries to avoid paying fines, regardless of how it managed its domestic finances. Is it likely that politicians from Spain, Greece or even France would ever vote against fellow Mediterranean governments, knowing full well that next time they themselves might be in the dock?

Not if you ask Ottavio Ising, the exasperated chief economist of the Bundesbank, who analysed the situation with characteristic clarity in a speech he delivered a few hours before the stability pact was signed last Friday: "If you leave the decisions [on fines] to political bodies, then you have

the potential sinners judging the actual sinners." The answer to Dr Ising is clear. This is exactly how justice works in free societies the world over. There is no more reason to leave economic decisions to the latter-day saints who work for central banks than there is to allow civil servants to decide who is guilty of theft or murder.

The German defeat over the stability pact, therefore, was a victory both for democracy and for common sense. But it has two wider political ramifications. The first is that Germany has used up its last effective weapon for fighting battles over the form of monetary union. Until last weekend, Germany could always threaten to demand a tougher stability pact if its partners would not give way to its demands. Now that this threat has been nullified, Germany has only one device left in its armoury. This is the "doomsday" weapon of abandoning or delaying monetary union—and in Dublin Helmut Kohl made it clear that he would never dare to use.

The second political implication follows from the first. It is now much more likely than it was a few days ago that Italy and Spain will be able to join the monetary union from the very start.

The Club Med countries will now be much less deterred by the threat of draconian fines. Even more importantly, they will be

strongly supported by France, which is no longer intimidated by German threats to give up monetary union and now sees a real possibility of wresting control of the single currency from the start from Germany and its Northern client states.

This is where Britain's political strategy comes in. Until recently it was reasonable for Britain to assume that the euro zone would consist of a "hard core" of Northern countries dominated by Germany—and that alliances with Germany would be the key to defending British interests in the councils of the EU. It now looks increasingly likely that Europe will be dominated by France and the Mediterranean states, operating in perpetual tension with Germany.

This is not necessarily bad news from Britain's standpoint. For a Britain that consciously chooses to remain on the prosperous periphery of Europe, there is much to be gained from the growth of friendly dissension between Germany and France. Britain must now identify its national interests as clearly as the French and the Spanish—and pursue them as ruthlessly in the EU, throwing its weight alternately behind the Germans and the Mediterraneans, depending on our own national advantage. Monetary union will strain the Franco-German alliance that used to dominate Europe, almost to breaking point. There could be no better time to revive Britain's traditional European diplomacy, based on the balance of power.



# Shopping hysteria

Is obsessive buying a real disorder? Just ask any toy-crazed parent

It is not good enough. Who would believe an election is pending? The spin-doctors are missing easy shots; politicians are simply not opportunistic enough. Admittedly, it was a good wheeze to send out a young fogey from *The Spectator* to meet the Spice Girls and hint to the bare-bellied minxes that if they sounded worried enough about the single currency they could get their video on *Newsnight*. Mr Portillo's instant endorsement of the group was perhaps a little hasty ("Poor man, he doesn't know what he's getting into," said my young daughter sadly. "Has he actually seen them?"), but it was a brave stab.

That apart, the man who lives in the dark is being slow. A whole day has passed since the report from Dr Richard Elliott and Professor Kevin Courtney declaring a real and diagnosable disorder of "shopaholism" while on every high street the electorate may be seen roaming like starving buffaloes, crazed with longing for vague toys. You would have expected that by now new Labour would have promised to be tough on shopping, with NHS psychiatrists available in booths next to Gift Leatherware to alleviate the suffering of women with low self-esteem and high credit ratings. Meanwhile the Conservatives could have promised a Shopper's Charter guaranteeing a battery-operated Buzz Lightyear for every family in the land.

Come on, lads, what are you waiting for? This is a genuinely modern issue. Never before in human history has so much variety been so readily available so fast: surely mind-benders should be capitalising on the brand-new, vibrantly exciting social problem of retail addiction. Everyone, not just a few psychiatrists, should be out there noisily and expensively "tackling" it (although the researchers may have unwittingly provided a cure in the report: they say the shopping "disorder" is often caused by sexual disappointment. Next time anybody spots you burped at the checkout, with a manic gleam in your eye, you will know exactly what they are concluding. Who knows, *macho shame* might send some victims strait back to the hanging-rails so that they can slink past the line of pathetic laden inadequacies with one pair of black socks and a smug wiggle of the hips).

Actually, it is impossible to quarrel

with the thesis that some people get obscure emotional satisfactions from irrational shopping. In the survey they ran up huge debts, remortgaged their houses and did things like buying 160 pairs of shoes to compensate for their dull marriages. A clear link was found between addictive spending and a background of abuse, bereavement or depression. The researchers found classic patterns of forever-ent and climax followed by self-disgust and secrecy. Add the Duchess of York's autobiography and you have a syndrome.

Most of us can open cupboards and point to certain objects bought out of psychological, not material, need: unwearable leggings to make us feel chic, impractical underwear to make us feel sexy, wooden ducks to make us feel like children, computer gizmos we never learnt to operate, flaky hats that seemed a good idea when we were weaving down Regent Street after the office party (in the Disney Store the other evening, everybody in sight was visibly tipsy). A friend of mine once bought a very expensive and nasty heart-rug simply because she had just been introduced to the newlywed Princess of Wales and felt she ought to celebrate. Certain men cheer themselves up in winter by going into chemists' shops and buying tub after tub of vitamins and herbal pick-me-ups which they put on the shelf and never touch again. Even poverty is no protection: 10 per cent of the avowed shopaholics in the survey were on benefits. And it gets more complicated. The emotional neediness of the shopper is not necessarily selfish. One of the most fascinating recurring phenomena of modern Christmas is the craze for shortages, repeated every couple of years amid panic, mass anxiety and sometimes actual fights.

One year there were scenes of tugging and weeping over Cabbage Patch dolls; now something called Tickle Me Elmo has caused American parents to fly in and raid Selfridges, and the spaceman Buzz Lightyear is unobtainable in Britain. I once visited eight shops in search of a particular Bogin, and raced without dignity for a Ninja Turtle (shopaholic researchers please note: the triumph of capturing the object of desire is usually expressed by spending thirty quid on whatever rubbish is next to the checkout, and buying a bottle of old malt on the way home. This echoes the Roman triumphs, where getting a new bit of Gaul entitled you to parade through the streets wailing laurels and libations).

The toy trade itself is caught on the hop by these outbreaks of infantile need transmuted into parental anxiety. The desperation spreads upwards into their own management. A veteran toy retailer once reminisced with me about past panics, cruel scarcities of pink plastic ponies and inter-company skulduggery about consignments of robots from Taiwan. At one point he uttered the immortal line: "I once had to sit up drinking all night with a man to get some Tressy Dolls in." One day I shall write a blockbusting novel about this cut-throat world, and sweep SAS fiction off the shelves as every real man fantasises about being the hero who pulls off the Tickle Me Elmo coup.

Proof that we are dealing with a genuine disorder, not plain old greed, lies in this proxy desperation, this perversion of the parental instinct. In the year of the Tracy Island shortage (remember? a plastic moulding of Thunderbirds HQ) this paper sent me to queue through the dawn outside Toys R Us to take the temperature of the pre-Christmas craze. Many of the parents had been there all night, on mattresses and folding chairs, and to my surprise they were in tearing good spirits. "We've been talking all night, all strangers together, about how much we love our children," said one mother wearily. A man had kept a journal through the night and handed it to me: he recorded small-hours confessions like the one from

another father remembering his own loveless childhood and resolving that he would do better by his own kid — by sleeping rough all night to buy a lump of moulded plastic. It was, without exaggeration, very like a pilgrimage.

Perhaps that is why the politicians are wary of saying much about the retail craze, beyond the usual mantra about "consumer-led recovery". Perhaps they are wary because it is has acquired the numinous, dangerous power of religion. Every year, shopping takes over more and more of our lives. Shops have swallowed post offices, so that there is no longer any civic, uncommercial dignity in taxing your car or drawing your pension. There are to be doctors' surgeries in supermarkets; already there is a Sunday school run by the Salvation Army as a response to Sabbath shopping.

Of course to some of us, a session down the high street or mall is not an thrill but an ordeal of queues, overheating, muzak and frustration. So we may think we have evaded the new social disease. But no, shopping reaches its tentacles out even to those who think they abhor it. I do almost everything by mail order and have noted an unsettling tendency to do the actual deed in moments of boredom and depression, barking my credit-card number down the telephone and gabbling product numbers as if I were gulping meths. Looking around my study at this very moment, I concede that it is possible that even the Christmas season does not justify ten pairs of tap-dancing clackers, eight novelty wigs and a camping kettle.

The future grows more sinister. Interactive computer shopping is on the way, so that soon nobody need even pick up the phone to QVC or Racing Green, let alone drive to Thurrock for a retail orgy. Rather than a respite in the national shopping disease, it will be an aggravated phase. Human beings will not have to interact with one another in the street at all, but only with idealised and artfully lit products, so that like monkeys in a laboratory we need only push buttons to achieve surges of pleasure. As buying grows ever easier and faster, the pleasure will grow more elusive, the need for a hit ever greater.

No wonder politicians are so quiet on the subject of shopping and shopping diseases. They are scared. So am I.

## Libby Purves

skulduggery about consignments of robots from Taiwan. At one point he uttered the immortal line: "I once had to sit up drinking all night with a man to get some Tressy Dolls in." One day I shall write a blockbusting novel about this cut-throat world, and sweep SAS fiction off the shelves as every real man fantasises about being the hero who pulls off the Tickle Me Elmo coup.

# General Chi's big lie

Tiananmen is still

taboo, says

Jonathan Mirsky

Military etiquette must have been strained last week among several hundred American military officers at the US National Defense University when General Chi Haotian, China's Defence Minister, solemnly pronounced: "I can tell you in a responsible and serious matter that at that time not a single person lost his life in Tiananmen Square."

As Nicholas Burns, the State Department's pugnacious spokesman, commented, this is "unfortunate" and "inaccurate". I was in Tiananmen on the night of June 3, 1989 and saw people shot down. Western photographers took pictures of bodies in hospital morgues.

In Washington DC on a ten-day visit which included a chat with President Clinton, General Chi was answering a Navy officer's question about what happened that night. He admitted there had been some "pushing" of "hooligans" who egged on "students" staging a "sit-in" in Tiananmen Square. He guaranteed that such things would not recur.

President Clinton rescheduled his meeting with General Chi to avoid International Human Rights Day, but he barely raised the issue with his guest. Yet General Chi's statement was too much for Nicholas Burns. His words "inaccurate" and "unfortunate" might also be used, however, of the Defense Department's biographical handbook about General Chi, which omits to say that he was in operational command on the night of the Tiananmen killings. Pressed by journalists to justify the omission, the spokesman said that General Chi had not been "the architect" of the killings.

No political issue is more sensitive in China than the Tiananmen Square repression. I hope it shames General Chi when I say that although only four graves are known, estimates of the dead in Peking range from 500 to 3,000. The killing was seen by tens of thousands. Similar repression, barely known in the West, is acknowledged to have taken place in more than 80 cities that June, with thousands of deaths. After the violence came the nationwide interrogations, imprisonments and executions of thousands more. All these people had friends and relatives. In their hearts, therefore, a substantial number of Chinese demand an accounting and a "revelation of verdicts". One of the few who made her demand out loud was Professor Ding Zhilin, of Peking's People's University, whose son was killed in Tiananmen Square, and who organised a petition of other mothers who lost their children. She was first placed under house arrest and then sent into remote exile.

Congressman Chris Smith invited General Chi to testify to the House International Operations and Human Rights subcommittee, which he chairs. What sort of evidence would General Chi marshal to counter eyewitness stories, if he chose to stick to the line that "not a single person lost his life"? I cannot imagine.

There is a marble bridge near the Tiananmen gate, over which hangs a huge portrait of Mao Zedong. For millions of Chinese who visit the square from around the country, this is a place to stand and have a picture taken. Late on June 3, 1989, I was beaten there by People's Armed Police, wielding long truncheons. Around me, Chinese were suffering the same treatment — but when they were knocked to the ground other armed police shot them. Next morning, I lay flat on the street as People's Liberation Army soldiers mowed down members of a crowd milling about in front of the Peking Hotel, perhaps 100 yards from the square. They were trying to enter it to search for their relatives. When an ambulance from a nearby hospital arrived, the soldiers shot its doctors too.

Nicholas Kristoff of *The New York Times*, who was in the Square that night, reported "the troops began shooting... some people fell to the ground, wounded or dead... each time the soldiers fired again and more people fell to the ground." When he went to the Xiehe Hospital, the nearest to the square "it was a bloody mess, with hundreds of injured lying on the floors... I saw the bullet holes in the ambulances."

Jan Wong of *The Toronto Globe and Mail*, looking down from a balcony in the Peking Hotel with Cathy Sampson of this newspaper, "watched in horror as the army shot directly into the crowds... people fell with gaping wounds". Later, she reported, "The soldiers strafed ambulances and shot medical workers trying to rescue the wounded". Jan Wong, 14 floors above me when I saw people being shot in front of the hotel, wrote "I counted more than twenty bodies". I crawled away, but she kept watching. "In all," she reported, "I recorded eight long murderous volleys. Dozens died before my eyes." The enraged crowd, which up to that point had been shouting "kill [Premier] Li Peng," sometimes drifted away when it rained, but would soon return. When it did, "many more people died". Jan Wong remembers thinking "How strange it was that Pekingers didn't want to get wet, but they weren't afraid of getting killed." Nor were General Chi's soldiers afraid of killing them.

# Weston union

THE HUGE grin on the face of John Weston, the British Ambassador to the United Nations, when he came sprinting out of Friday's meeting of the Security Council after the new Secretary-General had been chosen, was due to more than exuberance. He had just been engaged in his favourite pastime: getting one over the French.

He took the waiting journalists by surprise, emerging from the conclave to brief them a fair clip ahead of the pack. With America, Britain had ensured that Kofi Annan, an American-educated Ghanaian, overcame the blocking tactics of the French, who wanted to appoint one of several French-speaking candidates.

Weston's colleagues from his days as Ambassador to Nato in Brussels recall his ruses with the French. He was the first and last Ambassador in Nato memory actually to storm out of a meeting in a rage, after being needed by the French Ambassador, Gabrielle Robin. Quite right too, after Robin had snidely remarked "We are used to Weston telling stories".

To round off the chaos of the meeting, when Weston returned, he was so flustered he managed to

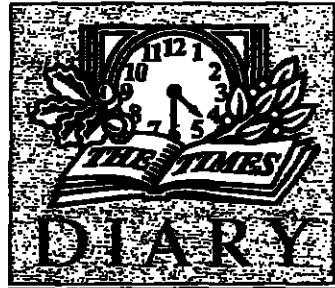
insult the German Ambassador at which point Manfred Wörner, who was then the Nato Secretary-General, intervened, saying: "Now, now children, let's behave more like adults."

## Place cards

GEOGRAPHY lessons are in order for Chris Smith, the Shadow Health Secretary, who grew horribly confused when buying the



Our man Weston



stamps for his Christmas cards in the House of Commons post office the other day.

He was told by the clerk that there were three rates for foreign mail: one for the world except Europe, one for the EU, and one for European countries outside the EU.

Smith rifled through his cards, then asked "Is Israel in Europe?" Although it competes in the Eurovision Song contest, he was told, it is not in Europe.

"What about Switzerland," he then said, "is that in the EU?"

## Choke out

TURNING OUT for the Department of Transport ranks low on most celebrities' public appearances lists. So the department found itself embarrassed when it had to

find one to launch its consultative document on new car licence plates to replace the current batch, which will soon run out of letters. The department booked an Aston Martin showroom in Berkeley Street, London, and then tried to get Jackie Stewart to come. No dice. Stewart was busy.

Damon Hill? Not a chance. Oh, all right. Stirling Moss will do anything. Except, it turned out, appear on behalf of the Department of Transport. So, enter Ernie Thompson, chief executive of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders. Maybe not so glamorous, but ever so reliable.

● Diplomatic toastmasters are already at work practising introducing the new Secretary-General and his Swedish wife: Kofi and Nane Annan. Not to be attempted after any sly swigs from the sherry bottle.

## Take a bow

RETURNING to the screen as the BBC's answer to Melvyn Bragg is Alan Yentob, the director of programmes for BBC television. An uncompromising John Birt man and former controller of BBC1, Yentob has only appeared on television himself in the past few years as an awards presenter and management talking head. Now



All three tenors: washing-day will be the merrier

he has interviewed the rock star David Bowie in a sequel to an interview he did in 1975 as a 29-year-old producer for the *Omnibus* programme.

"Twenty-one years later the time came to interview Bowie again, so who better than Alan Yentob?" explained a Yentob loyalist. Back in 1975, the two tortured young men drove around the tough streets of LA in a limousine. This time, for *Changes: Bowie at 50*, with waistlines expanded and wardrobes full of Armani, they

booked a suite at the Soho Grand Hotel in Greenwich Village.

● Laundry day in Hampshire House, New York, will be an even noisier affair now that it is home to all three of the Three Tenors. José Carreras has just moved into the block on Central Park South, joining Plácido Domingo and Luciano Pavarotti in a set-up which should be familiar to watchers of Channel 4's *Friends*.

P.H.S.















09-11-150

# Fowler's four goals send South Croydon wild



UNSURPRISINGLY, the winner of the £20 weekly prize in *The Times* Interactive Team Football game had Robbie Fowler in his team. Mr P. Mills, of South Croydon, scored 45 points over the week, with Fowler accounting for a third of them.

The long reign of John Hunt as the leading selector in the overall competition is, for the moment at least, over. Mr G. Foster, with his team Sophie And Sam, a Sky entrant, has edged four points clear of Mr Hunt, after being in second place for some weeks.

Mr Mills's team is:

Goalkeeper  
P Evans (Leeds)

Full backs  
S Bjornebye (Liverpool)  
C Perry (Wimbledon)

Central defenders  
S Campbell (Tottenham)  
F Leboeuf (Chelsea)

Midfield players  
R Earle (Wimbledon)  
P McGinlay (Hibernian)  
A Smith (Dundee)  
D Windass (Aberdeen)

Strikers  
R Fowler (Liverpool)  
A McCoist (Rangers)

Manager  
R Aitken (Aberdeen)

If your team could be doing better, you can move into the transfer market to improve



Fowler shoots for his first goal against Middlesbrough. His four goals meant that his ITF total increased by 15 points



allows you to change up to two players each week and to adjust your team if one of your players is actually transferred out of the FA Carling Premiership or Bell's Scottish League premier division.

You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a \* and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the 0891 866 968 line during the times given. From outside the United Kingdom, you must call 0044 990 200 668.

When making a transfer, you must ensure that the team does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the prizes — the overall £50,000, monthly £1,000 or weekly £250.

All Interactive Team Football transfer queries should be directed to 0171-757 7016. All other inquiries can be made on 01582-488 122.

## HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN ITF

All 1996-7 matches in the FA Carling Premiership, FA Cup, Bell's Scottish League premier division and Telford's Scottish Cup from August 17 count for points. Penalty shootouts do not count but results decided in this way will count for managers.

POINTS SCORED			
Goalkeeper		Striker	
Keeps clean sheet*	4pts	Scores goal	2pts
Scores goal	3pts	All players	
Saves penalty	1pt	Appearance†	1pt
Full back/Central defender		Scores hat-trick	6pts
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	Manager	
Scores goal	3pts	Team wins	3pts
Midfield player		Team draws	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	1pt		
	2pts		

POINTS DEDUCTED			
Goalkeeper	Booked	1pt	
Concedes goal	2pts	Concedes penalty	1pt
Full back/Central defender	Misses penalty	1pt	
Concedes goal	1pt	Score own goal	1pt
All players	Manager		
Sent off	3pts	Team losses	1pt

\* must have played for 75 minutes in the match  
\* must have played for 45 min. in the match

\* must have played for 76 minutes in the match  
† must have played for 45 minutes in the match



## EXCLUSIVE ITF COMPETITION THE TIMES

# 80 FOOTBALL GAMES TO BE WON



## HOW TO ENTER

The *Times* Interactive Team Football and Waddingtons are giving ITF players a chance to win one of 40 Subbuteo or *The Manager* games. The FA Premier League edition of Subbuteo includes two teams, Mitre balls, referee and linesmen, green strips, line flags, goals, scoreboard, pitch cloth and a miniature silver and gold replica trophy.

*The Manager*, created by former England soccer coach Terry Venables, is a football business game which casts players as managers of Premiership football clubs. This is a fun boardgame for two to six players with questions on entertainment, general knowledge and sport suitable for all the family.

To enter (only players of *The Times* ITF game) send your name, your ITF team name, ITF pin number and the answer to the question below, on a postcard or the back of a sealed envelope to: *The Times*/Waddingtons Comp, 16 Whitefriars St, London EC8 2NG. Closing date: Friday, January 31, 1997. Winners will be drawn at random. Normal TNL rules apply. Of which country is Terry Venables now the coach?

## CHANGING TIMES

## HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER IN ITF

Call 0891 866 968

If telephoning from outside the United Kingdom call 44 990 200 668.

You may make transfers only by telephone using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a \* and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need your ten-digit selector PIN, which you will have to tap in, not speak. Follow the simple instructions and tap in the five-digit codes of the players you are transferring.

You may only make transfers in one team per telephone call. If you have entered two teams and want to make transfers in both, you must make two separate calls.

You may transfer two (but no more than two) individuals (two players or one player and a manager) during a transfer week. A player being transferred out must be replaced by one from the same category and you must keep to the team format of a goalkeeper, two full backs, two central defenders, four midfield players, two strikers and a manager. You must not exceed the £35 million budget and have no more than two individuals from the same club. Incorrect transfers will be rejected and your team will remain in its previous form.

The transfer week runs from 00.01 on Tuesday to midnight the following Monday. Transfers made before noon each day will become effective immediately. Transfers made after noon will become effective for matches played after noon on the following day.

Your new player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.

If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your team. You must adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points.

Calls will be charged at 45p per minute cheap rate, 50p per minute at other times. Calls made from public telephones may cost approximately twice as much.

Player's Club

Player's Club

Player's Club

Player's Club

## THE LEADING 250 ENTRIES IN THE TIMES INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts	Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts	Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1	Sophie And Sam	(G Foster)	343	111	Triple Top Tan	(P Bailey)	273	211	Fortuna Sanderksh	(A J Finkel)	285
2	John Hunt Taunton D	(J Hunt)	339	112	Murray's Mates	(D Anderson)	273	212	Real Ale Ripon	(C Blackshaw)	285
3	John Hunt Taunton H	(J Hunt)	334	113	T 35	(T Baseran)	273	213	Net Busters	(D Curzon)	285
4	John Hunt Taunton F	(J Hunt)	327	114	Inter The Net	(M Ward)	273	214	We Can't Win	(G Knapper)	285
5	Nobby 33	(J Brown)	327	115	1970 Jr FC	(J Rose)	273	215	CUOK	(G Weiss)	285
6	Nobby 4	(J Brown)	321	116	P A Anson	(P A Anson)	272	216	La Bosc And 2 Veg	(M Sawley)	285
7	Inter The Stand	(M Ward)	317	117	Jabberwocky	(T Baseran)	272	217	Totled Five	(E Kelly)	285
8	Brain's Team	(B Howes)	316	118	Shrew Moles	(J Basher)	272	218	Red Star Belgrave	(R Kewen)	285
9	John Hunt Taunton E	(J Hunt)	315	119	Pacific All Star	(T Leonard)	272	219	Top Banana	(M Bottomley)	285
10	Gangsters	(A Lane)	314	120	Jonas Boys Sky	(M Jones)	272	220	12 Sick Parrots	(T Mayor)	285
11	Deggars	(V Cox)	314	121	A	(M Corless)	272	221	Bob's Boys 4	(P Calder)	285
12	Tulip's Tops	(D Tulip)	311	122	Fandon United	(E Cowen)	271	222	David Keeps The Goal	(K James)	285
13	Neat's Ark	(G P Dolan)	311	123	Jack's Gringoes	(D A Sutton)	271	223	Hunter's Mob	(C Hunter)	285
14	Ref Is Back To Kill	(R Gohil)	311	124	Caroline B	(A Luckhurst)	271	224	Alban's Heroes XI	(A Hynd)	285
15	Purple Rain	(B Gohil)	309	125	Aldo Is Great	(J Holliday)	271	225	Where's Amos?	(L J Saunders)	284
16	Jonas Boys Three	(M Jones)	307	126	Midfield Magic	(J Pregon)	271	226	Now We Are Two	(J McKaown)	284
17	John Hunt Taunton G	(J Hunt)	306	127	Nobby 7	(J Brown)	271	227	Dear Old Things	(J Saunders)	284
18	Inter The Pub	(M Ward)	305	128	Wanted XI	(D McLennan)	271	228	Ref Is Back To Kill	(R Gohil)	284
19	John Hunt Taunton C	(J Hunt)	305	129	The Tomatoes	(C C Venners)	271	229	Dave's Braves	(D Lightowler)	284
20	Ref Is Back To Kill	(R Gohil)	304	130	Tagua's 1st XI	(K Tagua)	270	230	Cuchin's	(G Cuchin)	284
21	NST Monkstone	(J Staszewicz)	304	131	4 4 2	(K Browne)	270	231	Pedro's Eagles	(S Abbott)	284
22	Skyforest	(A Burton)	304	132	Canon's Hotshots	(D Cannon)	270	232	Scottish Points	(J Pregon)	284
23	Hull Red Devils	(G Foster)	303	133	Trouble Shooters	(R Phil)	270	233	Thing Fish	(J Doughty)	284
24	Raggy Roaners	(A Riggs)	302	134	Jack's Nightmares	(N A Lane)	270	234	Bothered FC	(D Lee)	284
25	Team A	(A Lane)	298	135	Das Stars	(D A Sutton)	270	235	Kelly's Best	(P Llewellyn)	283
26	Storm	(P Mills)	297	136	Ebbey's 1st XI	(S Baldrick)	270	236	Sam Lowers	(P Perkins)	283
27	It's About Revenge C	(R Gohil)	297	137	Thom Foolery FC	(M Horan)	270	237	Alban's Foot	(L Sampson)	283
28	Schools For Goals	(G Booth)	297	138	Abdul's Revenge	(D Ritchie)	270	238	Irish's Best	(C J Edmond)	283
29	Jonas Boys Eight	(M Jones)	294	139	Langar Lads	(N Finch)	270	239	Gauntlet FC	(J W Donaldson)	283
30	Jonas Boys One	(M Jones)	294	140	Turner's Barons 5	(P Turner)	270	240	lan's B Team	(J Staszewicz)	283
31	Ref Is Back To Kill	(R Gohil)	294	141	Lesley's Legmen	(L McAlister)	270	241	Sporty Big Bone	(S Dabie)	283
32	Bob's Boys 2	(R Calder)	294	142	DJS 2	(J Doody)	269	242	Pacecoasters	(P Farrand)	283
33	Nobby 29	(J Brown)	294	143	The Big Man	(K Booth)	269	243	Langton Longbills	(M Ward)	283
34	Subbuteo Utd 5	(M Larcombe)	293	144	Percy's Progress	(M Parich)	269	244	John Hunt Taunton A	(J Hunt)	283
35	Nonchalant AFC 3	(R J Ward)	292	145	Nobby 14	(J Brown)	269	245	Ne	(H Somerville)	283
36	Born's Boys XI	(P Brown)	292	146	Harl Karl XI	(H Kerr)	269	246	Callan's Conquerors	(M Conway)	282
37	Nobby 32	(J Brown)	292	147	Perry's 5	(B Bear)	269	247	Ower The Moon FC	(I Roshell)	282
38	Nobby 11	(J Brown)	292	148	Par's People 2	(P Gregorini)	269	248	Pozzale Anderson	(P Hands)	282
39	Inter The Wallat	(M Ward)	291	149	Robbie Raiders	(P M Hardley)	269	249	Bladumore	(P Walburn)	282
40	Crookly Boys	(R Crook)	291	150	Steady Scorers	(J Stevenson)	269	250	Sky Times III	(L McCulloch)	282
41	PJ Thistle	(R Newbould)	291	151	Buttwith Utd 3	(M Larcombe)	269	251	Rainbow Warriors	(G Weiss)	282
42	Nobby	(J Brown)	291	152	Holentines	(D Blair)	269	252	Always Portugal 1	(V Gurneas)	282
43	Team C	(A Lane)	290	153	Forley's Firsts	(C Forde)	269	253	Neillies Heroes	(E Ford)	282
44	Breaston Celtic	(B McGivern)	290	154	Bob's Boys 1	(M Corless)	269	254	Burnside Floyd	(R Floyd)	281
45	Xpist Militaries	(M Jackson)	290	155	I	(J Brown)	269	255	The Fubars	(N Scott)	281
46	Mars FC	(M Baber)	290	156	Nobby 25	(G Samuels)	269	256	Elanore United	(P Leader)	281
47	Nobby 5	(J Brown)	290	157	G Money FC	(G Samuels)	269	257	Borch Girls	(M Burch)	281
48	JS August Monthly 1	(J Swinley)	289	158	Dave's First XI	(D Cuthbert)	269	258	Turner's Earners 6	(P Turner)	281
49	Le Busters	(J Robbuck)	289	159	Dour Rangers 3	(C Clayton)	269	259	Nobby 23	(J Brown)	281
50	Edmo Utd	(O Edmondson)	289	160	Hove Rangers 3	(N Goddard)	269	260	Ash Lee Loafers	(H Hulme)	281
51	A2	(K Farhall)	289	161	Good Times Boys	(R Crook)	269	261	Jan 2	(J Clayton)	281
52	Mark's Magicians II	(M Kingston)	289	162	Art's Allstars	(A Bange)	269	262	Molloy Town	(K McGibney)	280
53	Brimstone United	(G Weiss)	289	163	U West Utd	(J Staszewicz)	269	263	Ream 2 Slaughter	(J Staszewicz)	280
54	Scars	(G Weiss)	289	164	Graham's Bangers	(G Watson)	269	264	The Bubbly Eggs	(C MacAlum)	280
55	Garforth Seashores	(I Doughty)	287	165	Lynne's Lions	(L Horne)	269	265	Brinks Malt XI	(Z Whinnat)	280
56	Layton's Lions 7	(R Layton)	287	166	Havok	(P Williamson)	269	266	—	(G Miller)	280
57	Bad Time Boys	(R Crook)	287	167	Chaz 16-30 Tosses	(A Robson)	269	267	Dynamo Utd 1	(M A Kennedy)	280
58	Orlando Classics	(J Stride)	286	168	JLS Sports	(A Bates)	269	268	Too Far	(P Turner)	280
59	12 Angry Men	(D Cook)	286	169	Henry's Crowd	(G Hodgson)	269	269	Turner's Earners 4	(P Turner)	280
60	Nomads	(N Brown)	286	170	Jane's Giants	(J Longton)	269	270	Animals	(L Clark)	280
61	Bonny Boys	(R Crook)	285	171	Jenny's Skates	(D S Millie)	269	271	SK In A Carry On	(K James)	280
62	JS August Monthly 2	(J Swinley)	285	172	God's Alchemists 2	(S A Godfrey)	269	272	Nobby 20	(J Brown)	280
63	Mean Machine	(P Ford)	285	173	Turner's Earners 3	(P Turner)	269	273	Looney Tunes	(J Skinner)	280
64	Clive From Down Under	(K James)	285	174	Turner's Earners 3	(K J Burns)	269	274	Cholm Chk 60	(G Skelton)	280
65	Sky Rockets	(K Farhall)	285	175	Nobby 12	(J Brown)	269	275	Set Against Cys	(S Shipley)	280
66	AB 4	(A Boyland)	285	176	Turner's Tigers	(C Turner)	269	276	Shack Attack	(R Shackleton)	280
67	Pin Ups Two	(P Tuley)	284	177	Wellard United	(T Shelley)	269	277	The Flight Team	(S Wright)	280
68	China Castle	(G Gohil)	284	178							



The ITF players, their points and their values if you are considering the transfer option

Code	Name	Team	Pos	Points	Value
10101	M Watt	Aberdeen	1.50	0 -3	
10102	N Walker	Aberdeen	1.00	+4 +2	
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	0 +27	
10202	V Bartram	Arsenal	0.75	0 0	
10203	J Lukic	Arsenal	0.75	0 -14	
10301	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	3.50	0 +1	
10302	M Oakes	Aston Villa	1.00	0 +19	
10401	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0 -19	
10402	S Given	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	-1 -1	
10501	G Marshall	Celtic	3.50	0 -1	
10502	S Kerr	Celtic	3.50	0 0	
10601	D Kharine	Chelsea	2.50	0 +10	
10602	K Hitchcock	Chelsea	2.00	0 -20	
10603	F Grodas	Chelsea	3.00	-5 -5	
10701	S Grigovic	Coventry City	1.50	0 -19	
10702	J Flett	Coventry City	0.50	0 0	
10801	M Taylor	Derby County	1.00	0 0	
10802	R Houtt	Derby County	1.00	0 -10	
10901	A Maxwell	Dundee United	0.50	0 0	
10902	L Key	Dundee United	0.50	0 +4	
11001	I Westwater	Dunfermline	0.50	0 -10	
11101	N Southall	Everton	2.50	0 -9	
11103	P Gerrard	Everton	2.50	0 +1	
11201	G Rousseau	Hearts	2.00	-6 -10	
11301	J Leighton	Hibernian	1.50	-4 -7	
11401	D Lekovic	Kilmarnock	1.00	+5 -20	
11501	M Beaney	Leeds United	1.50	0 0	
11502	P Evans	Leeds United	0.25	0 0	
11503	N Martyn	Leeds United	2.50	+4 +8	
11601	K Pople	Leicester City	1.00	0 -6	
11603	K Keller	Leicester City	1.00	0 -8	
11701	D James	Liverpool	5.00	-11 +11	
11702	A Warner	Liverpool	0.50	0 0	
11801	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00	0 -16	
11802	R van der Gouw	Manchester United	1.00	0 +5	
11901	G Walsh	Middlesbrough	1.50	-9 -14	
11902	A Miller	Middlesbrough	1.50	0 -23	
12001	S Howie	Motherwell	1.50	0 -19	
12101	S Hiskop	Newcastle United	4.00	0 -3	
12102	P Smolcek	Newcastle United	3.00	+5 +5	
12201	M Croxley	Nottingham Forest	2.50	+5 +23	
12202	A Fettes	Nottingham Forest	0.75	0 0	
12203	T Wright	Nottingham Forest	0.75	0 0	
12301	S Thomson	Raith Rovers	0.50	+5 -9	
12401	A Gorum	Rangers	5.00	-2 +17	
12501	K Pressman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	0 +5	
12502	M Clarke	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0 0	
12601	D Beasant	Southampton	1.00	0 -16	
12602	N Moss	Southampton	0.25	0 +2	
12603	C Woods	Southampton	1.50	0 -19	
12702	L Perez	Sunderland	0.50	+5 -8	
11803	A Coton	Sunderland	1.00	0 +9	
12801	I Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50	+5 +16	
12802	E Baarsen	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0 0	
12901	L Mladokso	West Ham United	2.00	0 -16	
12902	S Maunton	West Ham United	0.50	0 +5	
13001	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	1.00	+5 +12	
13002	P Heald	Wimbledon	1.00	0 0	



Kelly, the Sunderland No 16, performs acrobatics during the match against Chelsea. But it will not boost his ITF rating

		Pos	
Code	Name	Team	Pos. in Team
30205	S Marshall	Arsenal	1.00 0 0
30301	G Southgate	Aston Villa	3.50 0 +16
30302	U Ehiogu	Aston Villa	3.00 0 +33
30304	C Tiler	Aston Villa	1.00 0 +9
30305	R Scimacca	Aston Villa	1.00 0 +13
30401	C Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	4.00 0 +1
30402	I Pearce	Blackburn Rovers	2.50 0 0
30403	C Coleman	Blackburn Rovers	2.50 0 -3
30404	N Marker	Blackburn Rovers	0.50 0 +2
30501	T Boyd	Celtic	3.00 0 +10
30502	M McKay	Celtic	1.50 0 +2
30503	A Stubbs	Celtic	3.50 0 +9
30504	B O'Neill	Celtic	3.00 0 +1
30601	M Duberry	Chelsea	2.50 -3 -8
30602	F Leboeuf	Chelsea	2.50 0 +13
30603	F Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00 -2 -2
30604	D Lee	Chelsea	2.00 0 +3
30605	A Myers	Chelsea	1.50 -1 +5
30701	E Johnson	Coventry City	1.50 0 +10
30702	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50 0 -1
30801	I Stimpac	Derby County	2.50 0 -4
30802	D Wessall	Derby County	1.00 0 0
30803	P McGrath	Derby County	2.50 0 +1
30804	J Laurson	Derby County	1.00 0 +6
30901	M Carlson	Derby County	0.50 0 -1
30902	S Pressley	Dunfermline	0.50 0 -4
31001	M Miller	Dunfermline	0.75 +1 +1
31002	I Den Blamen	Dunfermline	0.75 -3 -10
31101	D Unsworth	Everton	2.50 0 +10
31102	D Watson	Everton	2.50 0 +2
31103	C Short	Everton	2.00 0 +9
31201	D McPherson	Hearts	1.00 0 +8
31202	P Ritchie	Hearts	1.00 0 +16
31301	J McLaughlin	Hibernian	0.50 0 0
31302	B Walsh	Hibernian	0.75 0 +7
31401	G Hunter	Hibernian	0.50 -1 -7
31402	M Reilly	Kilmarnock	1.00 +4 -2
31403	R Montgomery	Kilmarnock	0.75 +4 -1
31501	D Wetherall	Leeds United	2.50 0 +15
31502	R Johnson	Leeds United	1.00 0 +2
31503	L Radford	Leeds United	1.00 +4 +12
31504	J Pennington	Leeds United	0.50 0 0
31601	S Walsh	Leicester City	1.00 0 +6
31602	J Watts	Leicester City	1.00 0 +9
31603	P Karamark	Leicester City	0.50 0 0
31604	S Prior	Leicester City	1.00 0 +7
31701	P Babbs	Liverpool	3.50 0 +18
31702	J Scars	Liverpool	3.50 0 +15
31703	M Wright	Liverpool	3.50 0 +15
31704	N Ruddock	Liverpool	3.00 +11 -5
31705	D Matteo	Liverpool	1.00 0 +14
31801	G Pallister	Manchester United	3.50 0 +1
31802	D May	Manchester United	3.00 0 +10
31803	R Johnson	Manchester United	2.50 0 +10
31804	N Pearson	Middlesbrough	1.50 0 +1
31901	N Wicks	Middlesbrough	1.50 0 0
31902	D Whyte	Middlesbrough	1.50 -4 -13
31903	P Whelan	Middlesbrough	0.75 -4 -4
32001	B Martin	Motherwell	1.50 +3 0
32002	M van der Gaag	Motherwell	0.75 +11 -1
32101	P Albert	Newcastle United	4.50 +4 +17
32102	S Howey	Newcastle United	3.00 0 +7
32103	D Peacock	Newcastle United	3.00 +4 +14
32201	C Cooper	Nottingham Forest	3.00 0 +4
32202	S Chellie	Nottingham Forest	2.50 +4 +2
32203	S Blatherwick	Nottingham Forest	1.00 0 -3
32301	S Dennis	Raith Rovers	1.00 -19 -19
32401	R Gough	Rangers	3.50 +2 +28
32402	A McLean	Rangers	3.50 0 +17
32403	J Bjorklund	Rangers	2.50 0 +14
32404	G Peirce	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00 0 +6
32501	J Newsome	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50 0 +17
32502	D Walker	Sheffield Wednesday	0.25 0 0
32503	B Linington	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50 -14 -14
32601	K Monkou	Southampton	1.00 0 -2
32602	A Nelson	Southampton	0.50 0 0
32603	R Dryden	Southampton	0.50 0 -11
32604	C Lundekvam	Southampton	0.50 0 -11
32605	U van Gobel	Southampton	1.50 0 -17
32701	A Melville	Sunderland	1.00 +4 +18
32702	K Ball	Sunderland	1.00 +6 +14
32703	R Ord	Sunderland	0.50 +4 +14
32801	S Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50 +4 +23
32802	C Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50 +4 +20
32803	G Mabbitt	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00 0 0
32804	K Scott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50 0 0
32901	S Hethercott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50 0 +5
32902	S Hill	West Ham United	2.50 0 +5
32903	M Ripper	West Ham United	2.50 0 +5
32904	S Potts	West Ham United	2.00 0 -3
32905	R Hall	West Ham United	1.50 0 0
32906	R Ferdinand	West Ham United	0.50 0 0
33001	A Reeves	Wimbledon	1.00 0 0
33002	C Pearce	Wimbledon	0.75 0 0
33003	A Blackwell	Wimbledon	0.50 +4 +8
33004	B McAllister	Wimbledon	0.50 0 +12
33005	S Fitzgerald	Wimbledon	0.25 0 0

Code	Name	Team	Exp	Pos	Wk	Ov
40503	S Donnelly	Celtic	2.50	0	+15	
40504	P Grant	Celtic	1.50	0	+15	
40505	P Di Camio	Celtic	3.00	0	+18	
40601	R Gullit	Chelsea	3.50	+1	+5	
40602	D Wisa	Chelsea	3.00	+1	+17	
40603	G Peacock	Chelsea	2.50	0	0	
40604	C Burley	Chelsea	2.00	+1	+15	
40605	E Newton	Chelsea	2.00	+1	+5	
40607	D Rocastle	Chelsea	0.50	0	0	
40608	R Di Matteo	Chelsea	3.00	+1	+24	
40609	J Morris	Chelsea	2.00	0	0	
40701	J Salako	Coventry City	2.50	0	+21	
41501	G McAllister	Coventry City	5.50	0	+22	
40702	E Jess	Coventry City	2.00	0	+11	
40703	K Richardson	Coventry City	1.50	0	+10	



## NEWS

## Beef ban remains despite cull

■ Europe told Britain that the world ban on British beef would remain in force indefinitely, in spite of the decision to slaughter 100,000 cattle most at risk from "mad cow" disease.

Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, said the Government was going ahead with the £150 million cull — first mooted in July and then suspended in September — because it was the only way to make any progress on lifting the ban. Page 1

## Williams chiefs face trial over Senna

■ Frank Williams, head of the Formula One Williams team, is to be tried for the manslaughter of Ayrton Senna, the Brazilian world champion, who was killed in the San Marino Grand Prix two and a half years ago. Prosecutors in Bologna announced the charges against Mr Williams, the technical director, and the chief designer. Page 1

## Amis returns

Martin Amis has fallen out with the publishing house that offered him a £500,000 contract and has signed a four-book deal with his original publisher. Page 1

## New smoking risk

One in seven of all childhood cancers may be caused by fathers who smoke. The more a man smokes, the greater the risk becomes. Page 1

## Education waste

Millions of pounds are being wasted and tens of thousands of parents denied their first choice of school because of the inefficiencies in the allocation of school places. Page 2

## Wembley winner

The Sports Council will announce today that London has won the greatest lottery prize of all, the £180 million project for a new national football and athletics stadium at Wembley. Page 3

## Hospital blunder

A pregnant woman who was admitted to hospital suffering stomach cramps was given a drug designed for men suffering prostate problems. Page 3

## Freemason concern

Judges are facing calls to resign from the Freemasons, or at least publicly state their membership, after fresh evidence to MPs on the extent of the "brotherhood" within the judiciary. Page 4

## Aga Khan's daughter to marry farmer

■ Princess Zahra, the only daughter of the Aga Khan, has become engaged to a farmer's son from Dorset, Mark Boyden, 35, a management consultant who is also involved with his parents' farm business, met the princess through friends in France. The Aga Khan announced the engagement through his secretariat in Aiglemont, near Chantilly. Page 1

## Military burial

The remains of 27 British soldiers killed in the First World War and discovered recently in northern France are to be reburied there. Page 5

## Bird under threat

One of Britain's rarest birds of prey, the hen harrier, is being illegally slaughtered by gamekeepers on Scottish grouse moors, scientists said. Page 6

## Gun law attacked

Michael Howard's chief adviser on gun laws made an outspoken attack on the Home Secretary's Bill for a partial handgun ban. Page 8

## Kennedy anger

A brawl in a New York street suggests that John Kennedy Jr., son of the late President, has reached breaking point with the paparazzi who follow his every move. Page 9

## Iraq damages claim

A United Nations commission is recommending that Kuwait should receive \$610 million (£370 million) in damages for the infrastructure destroyed by Iraq at the end of the Gulf War. Page 10

## Papua victims

One of the world's least-reported conflicts resurfaced with the publication of photographs showing the bodies of nine people allegedly killed by Papua New Guinea soldiers. Page 11



Richard Branson with Per Linstrand (left) and Rory McCarthy in Morocco announcing their plan to make a balloon flight round the world

## Bees: The drinks and hotels group

sold 61 Holiday Inn hotels to the Bristol Hotel group in America. Page 21

## Cash blow: Thousands of Lloyds

TSB Bank customers had their Christmas shopping plans thwarted by a massive computer failure which meant that all 2,400 cash-point machines were out of action for several hours. Page 21

## House prices: Rises of 10 per cent

are expected next year and again in 1998 by UBS, the Swiss banking group. They would be the first double figure gains since 1989. Page 21

## Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 21.4

to 3993.8. Sterling rose from 93.2 to 93.7 after a rise from \$1.6580 to \$1.6615 and from DM2.5641 to DM2.5811. Page 24

## Cricket: Ronnie Irani was taken to

hospital for X-rays on his lower back. England may now be choosing from only 13 players for the first Test against Zimbabwe. Page 40

## Football: Blackburn confirmed

that the Swede, Sven-Goran Eriksson, will become their new manager when his contract with Sampdoria expires. Page 40

## Sailing: Lawrie Smith is to lead an

all-British team in the Whitbread round-the-world race. Smith is replaced in the Swedish EF Education boat by the American, Paul Cayard. Page 40

## Rugby union: Doubt surrounds the

future of Brian Ashton, the chief coach at Bath, as they prepare to start their defence of the Pilkington Cup. Page 36

## Works of art: Richard Long's topographical

show inaugurates Exeter's refurbished, Spaxo Gallery; while at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Phillip King reveals his latest work. Page 29

## One of a kind: Shane MacGowan

brings his own unique brand of festive spirit to the Astoria in London, in a gig with the Popes. Page 30

## La bound: Clare Bayley, who won

The Times Screenwriting Competition earlier this year, travels to Hollywood to pitch her winning screenplay. Page 31

## Christmas show: Vivian Ellis's musical

Listen to the Wind has been dusted down and lovingly resurrected by Dan Crawford in north London. Page 31

## DJ legend: John Peel, a Radio 1

institution and Soles survivor, admits he has never worn a tartan suit or carried a guitar. Page 12

## Celebrity switch: Now that Sylvester

Stallone may move to London, perhaps we can offload some of our "stars". Would America consider taking Chris Evans, Anthea Turner and Tamara Beckwith? Page 12

## Changing society: People need to

be taught a code by which to live, writes Frances Lawrence, announcing her plan for an alliance dedicated to working with the young and responding to social needs. Page 13

## Rolling on: Why British entrepreneurs

are on a roll with board games this Christmas. Page 28

## Charities: Is the legislation that

restricts the actions of charities in the political forum lessening their fund-raising potential? Page 33

## The crisis in Zaire underlines the

uncertainties, the ambiguities and the ambitions of America's African policy. Having mistakenly considered itself capable of elaborating a diplomatic strategy in the region, Washington is now trying to imagine how things might backfire. Page 17

## Risk assessment: rules of royal

succession; compensation for British POWs of the Japanese; handgun legislation; preserving the South Downs. Page 15

## IN THE TIMES

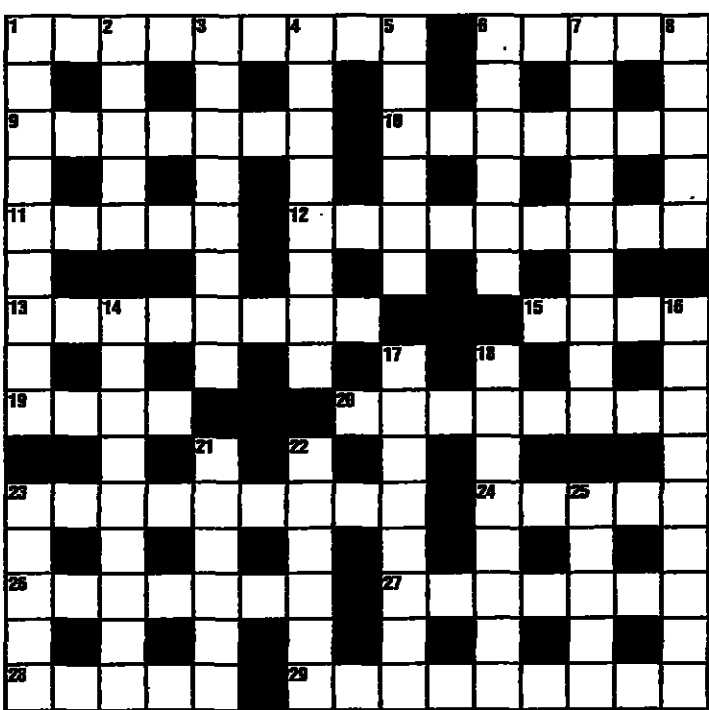
## ■ INTERFACE

In our weekly technology supplement: what billionaire Bill Gates wants from Santa this Christmas

## ■ ARTS

Jessica Lange talks to Matt Wolf about making her West End debut

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,353



- ACROSS
- 1 Archbishop is backing bishop, perhaps, as a sort of line-manager (9).
  - 6 Put on speed within the law (5).
  - 9 A proposition not wholly accepted as apostolic? (7).
  - 10 Establish record when losing at tennis? (3,4).
  - 11 Employer enrolling Henry as escort (5).
  - 12 Carefully protect telephone receiver (4-5).
  - 13 The beginnings of a hobby might be found in his collection (8).
  - 15 Difficult not to start squabble (4).
  - 19 Vessel's course returning to lake (4).
  - 20 Youth brewed green tea (8).
  - 23 Subdued when caught, having indulged in speeding (9).
  - 24 Put back lush plant elsewhere (5).
  - 26 Our confidant in retirement? (7).

## Solution to Puzzle No 20,352

MIMICRY FEARFUL  
RAGER WOBBLING  
ICECAP OFFDRIVE  
SCOUNDREL ATLAS  
DEADLINE ENABLE  
PRIVILEGE ATRIA  
TENDRI SHARD  
HEARSAY OTHELLO

- DOWN
- 1 Shortened term for standing politician as required by law (9).
  - 2 Roofing slate put up over most of the courtyard (5).
  - 3 Current fashion in support of morning exercises (8).
  - 4 Motorway strain for one giving instruction (8).
  - 5 Pushing carefully forward when investigating (6-3).
  - 6 Fire-escape? (3-3).
  - 7 Restricting flier's basic training (9).
  - 8 Round numbers taking English in future, say (5).
  - 14 For example, Dutchman's illegal punch? (9).
  - 16 Early warning of a street diversion (9).
  - 17 Scimitar initially held by chief executioner (8).
  - 18 Corn tormented in every step too far (8).
  - 21 Style through the water shown by boatman (6).
  - 22 Co-ordinated marching from section of foot (2,4).
  - 23 Vehicle at home in small shelter (5).
  - 25 Sauce tipped over a superior rice dish (5).

## Times Two Crossword, page 40

## Latest Road and Weather conditions

UK Weather - All regions 0336 444 910  
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Inside M25 0336 401 746  
M25 and Link Roads 0336 401 747  
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Wales 416 335 NI/Ireland 416 341  
Midlands 416 336 London 416 342  
East Anglia 416 337 National Scotland 416 338  
N.Wales 416 339 Western 416 339  
N.East 416 339

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## HIGHEST &amp; LOWEST

Yesterday: highest dry temp: Falmouth, Cornwall, 8C (46F); lowest dry temp: Salt Lake, Utah, -20C (-4F); highest rain: Falmouth, Cornwall, 5.2in.

## NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 34.5% of the new material for UK newspapers in 1995

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Flights for 10-15 days in 1997 or contact your travel agent. All major credit cards accepted. Subject to availability and report times. Bookings should be made 14 days in advance of travel by 23rd January for travel between 18 January and 15th March 1997. No Saturday night stay required. See Tables p.254.

## AIRK

## General: Western England and

Wales will be cloudy throughout, with rain spreading north. Some central and most eastern parts should be dry with brightness at times, but also with patchy light rain or drizzle in places.

Most of Scotland and Northern Ireland should be fairly cloudy, with patchy drizzle in the west at first. However, rain will become more extensive during the day from the south. Shetland will be cloudy all day with rain.

## London, SE England, E Anglia,

E Midlands, E England, Central N Scotland, Orkney: mostly dry but rather cloudy. Wind mostly southerly, light. Max 7C to 9C (45F to 48F).

## Central S England, W Midlands,

Channel Isles, NW England, Lake District, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, NW Scotland: rather cloudy, some patchy rain or drizzle, becoming more persistent late evening. Wind south to south-east, light to moderate, locally fresh.

## SW England: cloudy with mostly

light rain at first, more persistent and heavier rain later. Wind southeast, moderate to fresh. Max 10C to 11C (50F to 52F).

## S Wales, N Wales, Isle of Man,

N Ireland: mostly cloudy with patchy light rain or drizzle becoming persistent in the evening. Wind south-easterly, fresh. Max 5C to 8C (41F to 46F).

## NE England, Borders, Edin-

burgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney: mostly dry but rather cloudy. Wind south-westerly, light to moderate. Max 5C to 7C (41F to 45F).

## Shetland: cloudy with persistent

rain. Wind mostly easterly, moderate to fresh. Max 6C to 7C (43F to 45F).

## Outlook for tomorrow and

Thursday: all parts mild, with rain for a time, showers later in west.

## Max 7C to 8C (45F to 46F).

## SW England: cloudy with mostly

light rain at first, more persistent and heavier rain later. Wind southeast, moderate to fresh. Max 10C to 11C (50F to 52F).

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## NE England, Borders, Edin-

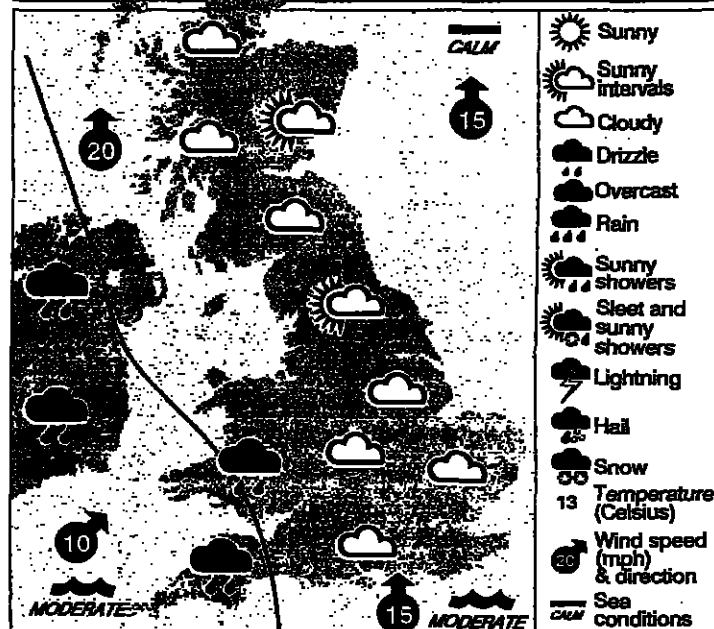
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## Outlook for tomorrow and

Thursday: all parts mild, with rain for a time, showers later in west.



Changes to chart below from noon: low W will drift slowly north and begin to fill; high G will decline; high M will remain stationary with little change in pressure

Legend: Warm front, Cold front, Occluded front

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Legend: Warm front, Cold front, Occluded front



# THE TIMES

2

INSIDE SECTION

2 TODAY



ARTS

How our film script contest winner got on in Hollywood  
PAGES 29-31



LAW

Why the police may be able to enter private premises  
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SPORT

Austrians make giant impression in Val d'Isère  
PAGES 34-40

TELEVISION AND RADIO

PAGES 38, 39

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY DECEMBER 17 1996

## FT-SE blow to Halifax shareholders

By Gavin Lumsden

MILLIONS of Halifax Building Society members could see the value of their new shares drop after conversion next June if a proposal to delay its entry into the Stock Exchange goes ahead.

With an estimated market value of £10 billion, the Halifax is equivalent to more than 1 per cent of market value of the FT-SE 100 index and would normally qualify for fast entry into the index.

Fast entry was devised by a committee of actuaries in the 1980s to get the large private

sation stocks such as British Telecom and British Gas included in the main stock market indices as quickly as possible after flotation.

However, unlike the privatisations the Halifax conversion will offer shares only to its 9 million members. No shares are to be placed with the big institutional investors.

The FT-SE Actuaries UK Indices Committee, which reviews the FT-SE 100 and FT-SE All-Share indices, believes the lack of an institutional placing could distort the market and is considering a delay of up to three weeks before the Halifax joins the FT-SE 100.

Steven Vale, secretary to the FT-SE Actuaries Committee, said: "There will be no distribution to institutions."

"If we put it in on the first day institutions would not be able to get their hands on the stock which will cause a distortion in the market if the stock gets an artificially high price."

"The whole point of the indices is that they are supposed to be a realistic measurement of how fund managers perform."

Peter Butler of the pension fund manager Hermes said institutions would need time to build up their usual 60 per cent combined stake in stocks.

However, City analysts fear this could mean tracker funds, which automatically buy shares in all FT-SE 100 constituents, would avoid Halifax in the early days of its float, thereby artificial depressing its price. This in turn would mean a lower price for those small shareholders selling out in the early days of the flotation. Many small shareholders will be tempted to

## House prices tipped to rise 10%

By Sara McConnell and Rachel Kelly

HOUSE prices are set to rise 10 per cent next year and a further 10 per cent in 1998, UBS, the banking group, predicts. This would push price gains into double figures for the first time since 1989.

Publishing his latest housing market report, Rob Thomas, UBS housing analyst, declared: "The gloom of the 1990s housing recession has finally been shaken off."

Rising prices will release more people from the negative equity trap, which will in turn bring more homes into the market, Mr Thomas said. UBS estimates that the number of people with mortgages worth more than the value of their homes will fall from 500,000 at the end of 1996 to 90,000 by the end of 1997.

Mr Thomas predicts that turnover of properties will rise to 1.4 million in 1997 and 1.6 million in 1998. He played down fears that a housing recovery could escalate into a 1980s-style speculative boom. "With housing seriously undervalued by any historical comparison the market's new-found confidence will fuel a rapid catching up period. There is a danger that this... will rekindle speculative buying... but in the absence of a seriously overheating economy we give this scenario a low probability."

He believes mortgage rate rises will be small, peaking at an annual average of 5.3 per cent in 1998.

The Cheltenham & Gloucester, the fourth largest mortgage lender, has raised its standard variable rate from 6.85 per cent to 6.94 per cent, with effect from January 1.

## RBS executive nets £2m bonus

By Gavin Lumsden

LAWRENCE FISH, the chairman of Royal Bank of Scotland's US subsidiary, Citizens Financial Group, has netted £2 million in bonuses since its merger with First NH Bank in April.

According to RBS's annual report, published yesterday, the payment to Mr Fish doubled the amount paid in bonuses to eight executive directors to £2.4 million in 1996.

In addition to a £442,000 basic salary, Mr Fish, 52, was paid £100,000 in benefits, bringing his total package to £2.57 million. This was more than £1 million in excess of last year's payments, when Mr Fish, on £1.54 million, was also the highest-paid executive in RBS.

RBS headhunted Mr Fish to run Citizens three years ago. His remuneration dwarfs that of Lord Younger of Prestwick,

chairman of RBS, who received £225,000 this year. George Mathewson, chief executive, received a £121,000 bonus, lifting his total remuneration to £557,000, from £485,000 in the previous year.

RBS said that Mr Fish's remuneration was in line with comparable executives in America and was well deserved because Citizens' profits, after provisions, had risen by 57 per cent, to £168 million, this year after the merger deal with First NH Bank.

In the year to September 30, RBS increased pre-tax profits to £695 million, from £502 million. There was a net exceptional profit of £51 million, made up of a £72 million profit on a German disposal, partly offset by restructuring costs of £21 million relating to the merger of Citizens and First NH Bank.

## Tabor leads coup at West Ham

By Jason Nisse

A FORMER bookmaker and racehorse owner, who had a lifetime ban from the Jockey Club overturned on appeal in 1973, will today launch an attempt to oust the chairman of West Ham United and take control of the troubled Premiership football club.

Representatives of Michael Tabor, who sold his Arthur Prince bookmaking business to Coral for £30 million last year and now lives in tax exile in Monaco, will stand up at today's annual meeting of the club and propose that shareholders reject the re-election of Terence Brown, the club's chairman. They will propose that Henry Montlake, an Essex lawyer representing Mr Tabor, is elected instead.

Although even Mr Tabor's camp admit this move has little chance of success as Mr Brown claims backing from holders of

90 per cent of West Ham's shares, it is a first attempt by him to take control of West Ham, whose unquoted shares have a market value of about £25 million.

Mr Montlake has written to shareholders saying that Mr Tabor, a lifelong West Ham fan, is willing to put money for rebuilding the club's ground at Upton Park and buying new players.

The letter says Mr Tabor has funds available immediately. In the past he has shown no shortage of wealth, being a leading racehorse owner, boasting Thunder Gulch, the 1995 Kentucky Derby winner and the most expensive yearling in Britain at 800,000 guineas in his stable.

A lifetime ban imposed on him in 1970 by the Jockey Club for allegedly fixing races was overturned three years later.

## Bass in £400m Holiday Inns deal

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

BASS, the brewing and leisure group, is selling 47 of its Holiday Inn hotels in America to Bristol Hotels Group of the US. The £400 million deal is part Bass's strategy to franchise hotels rather than own them outright.

In return, Bass will take a shareholding of 36.1 per cent in Bristol, which will become the largest hotel operator in America. Bass is also selling management contracts for another 14 hotels to Bristol and will receive \$91 million in cash and will retire \$300 million in debt.

The deal will more than double the size of the American company, which will become the largest Holiday Inns franchisee in the world. It will control 84 of the hotels, including Holiday Inn Select and Crowne Plaza hotels.

A Bass spokesman said: "Bristol has a strong management team and they already franchise from us, so we decided to stay with them."

American hotels contributed 596 million to the company's operating profits in the year to September. However, the figure also includes hotels managed but not owned by Bass. It is not clear how much the company's own hotels contributed.

Bass is planning to invest \$100 million in its Holiday Inn network in Europe, Asia or Africa. Its progress in developing the chain in those areas has been slower than in the US, where it has more than 1,600 hotels under franchise. It continues to own 20 hotels in America and has no immediate plans to sell them.

Bass said: "We have always seen franchising as our primary business. Owning and managing hotels is simply a means of supporting that operation."

## BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES	
FTSE 100	3993.8 (+21.4)
Yield	2.89%
FTSE All share	1955.20 (+8.03)
Nikkei	20422.04 (+80.65)
New York	
Dow Jones	6337.55 (+32.68)*
S&P Composite	729.92 (+1.28)*

US RATE	
Federal Funds	5 1/8% (5 1/8%)
Long Bond	95 1/8% (95 1/8%)
Yield	6.60% (6.57%)

LONDON MONEY	
3-month Interbank	6 1/4% (6 1/4%)
Life long gilt futures (Mar)	109 1/4 (109 1/2)

STERLING	
New York	1.6627* (1.6582)
London	
\$	1.6619 (1.6581)
DM	2.3816 (2.5829)
FF	8.7122 (8.6581)
Sfr	2.2052 (2.1819)
Yen	169.53 (168.70)
£ Index	93.7 (93.1)

DOLLAR	
London	
DM	1.5530* (1.5543)
FF	5.2411* (5.2455)
Sfr	1.3270* (1.3245)
Yen	114.15* (113.88)
£ Index	98.4 (98.1)

MERTH SEA OIL	
Event 15-day (Feb)	\$23.65 (\$22.90)

GOLD	
London close	\$367.55 (\$368.65)

\* denotes midday trading price

## Better recipe

New-look stores and a recovery in consumer confidence combined to propel profits at MFI, Britain's largest kitchen and bedroom furniture group, 63 per cent higher in the first half.

Page 23, Tempus 24

## Blue skies

The \$13.3 billion takeover of McDonnell Douglas by Boeing, the world's largest aircraft manufacturer, is almost certain to receive American Government approval as early as this summer.

Page 22

## Power failure halts Lloyds cashpoints

By Caroline Merrell



Plans are afoot to integrate cashpoint networks

THOUSANDS of Lloyds TSB Bank customers had their Christmas shopping plans thwarted yesterday by a massive computer failure that meant that all its 2,400 cashpoint machines were out of action for several hours.

The problem was caused by power failure at the bank's central computer in Peterborough. The chaos follows an initiative by the banks to try to integrate the various cash machine networks.

Customers were not only unable to get cash, but were also unable to get information about balances in their accounts. The bank said that it had deployed all

possible resources on trying to sort out the problem, but, by early evening, it had still not managed to get the computer working.

Ironically, the problem affected only the seven million customers with Lloyds. The seven million former TSB customers who became Lloyds customers when TSB was taken over last year were able to use their cash cards. The failure of the system, which is on the Four Banks computer network, is bound to annoy many shoppers in a year in which record levels of spending are forecast.

Link, the biggest cash machine network in the UK, experienced

record cash withdrawals in the first week of December. It claims that withdrawals are up by 30 per cent on last year, with an extra £50 million withdrawn in the first week of December. John Hardy, Link chief executive, said: "We have seen a dramatic increase in both cash withdrawals and transactions. It looks as if people are feeling the Christmas spirit earlier than they did last year."

Britain's retailers expect this Christmas to be a bumper one for spending. A recent survey forecast spending of £23.5 billion on presents, food and drink — £700 million up on last year.

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□ Saunders awaits Euro ruling □ Mathematics behind insurance mergers □ Defeat for Myerson and Treger

## Pleading in deadly Ernest

THE judgment that the European Court of Human Rights is threatening to hand down today is a bad one through and through, and far more damaging than any petty row over a smacked 12-year-old. The court is contemplating the restoration of Ernest Saunders's reputation.

Since his 1990 conviction for theft and other offences, Mr Saunders has stage-managed a rehabilitation of that reputation even more miraculous, in its own way, than the sudden lifting of the mental problems that once plagued him. It is the culmination of an extraordinary, often single-handed, public relations campaign.

Outside the City, he is now seen as a lone banner against injustice, the little man against the system. This is a view that might surprise those who knew the man in his heyday, "Deadly Ernest" the put-upon victim? The man who conspired with a few chums to steal millions now a political prisoner?

Part of the problem is that the Guinness fraud, to the uninitiated, looks like the perfect victimless crime, one bunch of rich plutocrats outdoing another bunch, a few figures manipulated on a screen and no one worse off. This is quite untrue. By artificially raising the Guinness share price, they bought Distillers on the cheap,

so depriving any investor in the latter of some of the value of the holding. As Distillers was one of the most widely held stocks at the time, this means virtually anyone with a pension lost out, if only marginally. It is a classic example of how to make a packet by robbing large numbers of people of extremely small amounts of money. No wonder the backhanders paid to that little cartel totalled £25 million.

Mr Saunders's appeal to the court will be decided today. He claims the questioning he underwent by Department of Trade and Industry inspectors amounted to forced self-incrimination, contrary to the established legal principle of a right to silence. The inspectors, under the 1985 Companies Act, can request answers to their questions on pain of up to two years' imprisonment. This evidence can then be used by the prosecution.

There is one plain reason why Mr Saunders's case should fail. We expect a higher standard of behaviour from those whom we charge to look after our money, a fact implicit in all the regulatory

paraphernalia of finance. Directors should be no different from other investment advisers, no matter in whose interests they are charged to act.

Consider these questions. In the battle between the fraudster and the prosecuting authorities, which side is, on the available criminal case history, operating at a disadvantage? And are the laws and regulations as they stand, post-Maxwell, post-BCCI, post all the other scandals, strong enough to protect all investors? And do they need weakening further at the behest of a European court, and on behalf of Ernest Saunders?

### Brokering the perfect deal

HOWEVER good the deal may look on paper, the real trick in merging two insurance companies is persuading the staff to work with each other. Insurers are people businesses, and their cultures are often strikingly different. This is why, in spite of talk of consolidation, brokers have been cautious in seeking



out potential partners. Put together two multimillion people businesses and see half the staff walk out, and you are back where you started, only poorer.

Yet the consolidation is driven by the same mathematics that brought about the more high-profile links between Royal and Sun Alliance and Refuge and United Friendly — and the flirting between Commercial Union and BAT. Insurance brokers, like their brethren further up the food chain, are having to cope with falling margins and slow revenue growth. North America and the UK are horribly competitive and there is no sign of a recovery. Many brokers have the additional cost of contribut-

ing towards the Lloyd's of London reconstruction plan.

People companies have high running expenses, which is why mergers look so tempting: computer systems harmonised, offices sold — and mass sackings all round, and Merry Christmas to the lot of you. Worldwide, the sector is already consolidating; only last week the merger between two US insurers, Aon Corporation and Alexander and Alexander Services, created the world's largest broker. Further deals are expected, with Marsh & McLennan of the US thought to be about to buy Minet.

This puts pressure on smaller brokers who are not big enough to compete. Speculation has surrounded Willis Corroon and Sedgwick, the UK's two biggest. Both have high expenses relative to turnover and some in the industry believe that they should merge and embark on, yes, that rigorous cost-cutting.

In such a climate, the merger of JIB and Lloyd Thompson could bear fruit for both. The new company becomes the third-biggest broker in the UK, with strengths in a number of niche markets.

Shares in fellow brokers were up again yesterday; clearly the market believes this is far from being the last big deal in the sector.

### Seeking value in strange places

ANOTHER day, another defeat for Brian Myerson and Julian Treger and their UK Active Value fund. Just whose value they are actively promoting and by how much is never quite clear — registration in the British Virgin Islands tends to see to that. But Kenwood shareholders have little to thank the duo for.

Myerson and Treger are self-styled corporate governance guerrillas, who claim to go into underperforming companies and take them apart, using strategic stakes as their lever. Their record is mixed, and their involvement in the affairs of Kenwood suffered a strong rebuff yesterday, more than 90 per cent of the other shareholders backing the board.

As has been the case before, it is not too clear what UK Active was trying to achieve. The idea

was to put Kenwood up for sale — but how? Any quoted company is for sale; all it needs is a buyer and the willingness of the owners, the investors, to sell. There is a buyer, in the shape of Pifco, a rather more successful maker of kitchen appliances. Pifco has been in talks with Kenwood since July at least, from which one may assume that these are not now going to reach a friendly conclusion.

There is nothing UK Active can do to force an agreement. The Kenwood board now has a few months' grace, ahead of full-year figures that should give a clearer indication of the finances. Alternatively, Pifco could always try a hostile bid.

### Halifax solution

THERE is an easy solution to the technical dilemma that has kept the Halifax out of the various City indices. The authorities are concerned that a scramble for stock by institutions might send the price soaring — and, presumably, offer private sellers an unacceptable premium. The Halifax should introduce a "revolving door", easy sale facility for those of its nine million members who want cash up front. The society avoids the expense of servicing a huge register of investors, and the City gets its shares at once.

## Repackaged stores help MFI to advance 63%

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM AND CHRIS AYRES

NEW-LOOK stores and a recovery in consumer confidence combined to propel profits at MFI, Britain's largest kitchen and bedroom furniture group, 63 per cent higher in the first half.

In the six months ending November 9 pre-tax profits were £32.7 million, compared with £20.1 million a year ago. John Randall, chief executive, said that in MFI's view the

housing market remains dormant. He said the 13.5 per cent like-for-like sales growth was instead thanks to improved consumer confidence and the new format MFI Homeworks stores, which are replacing traditional MFI outlets.

The converted stores have a broader range of goods on offer, wider aisles and natural lighting. A total of 78 out of MFI's 184 UK stores are now

trading as MFI Homeworks, with another 40 conversions planned for next year.

Homeworks stores are smaller, and the conversions have allowed MFI to sub-lease 130,000 square feet of retailing space. The group is currently negotiating with tenants to increase this to 300,000 square feet by the end of the year. If all the space is leased, it will give annual savings of up to £4

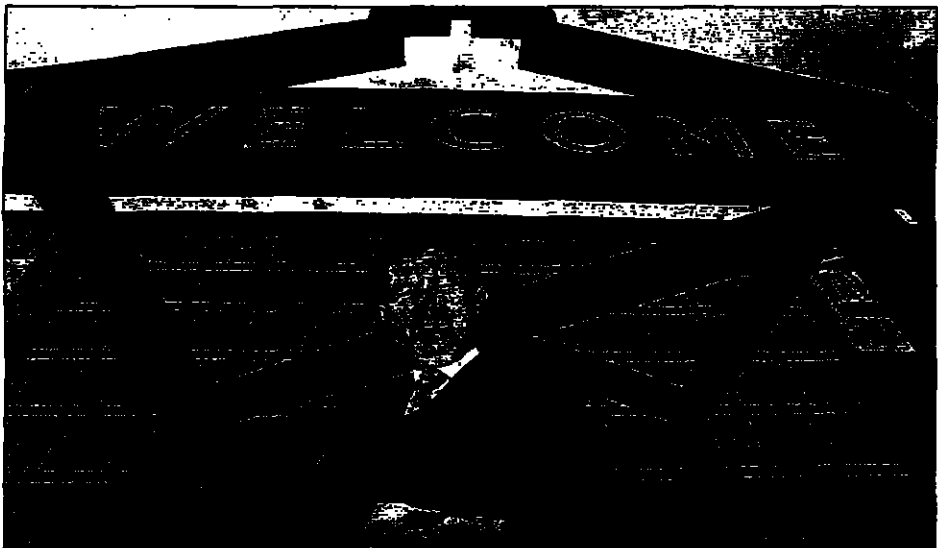
million. Derek Hunt, chairman, said the sub-lease programme allows the company to hedge against future rent rises and takes advantage of the high demand for out-of-town and edge-of-town sites created by restrictive planning regulations.

MFI will also be heavily investing in Howden Joinery, the builders' warehouse chain, which now has 24 depots. This number is set to double by the end of the next financial year, with new depots planned for the Midlands and the South of England.

Mr Hunt said MFI had benefited from the strength of the pound, which had pushed down the cost of raw materials in Europe. In the first half, like-for-like sales in the French stores were 11 per cent ahead but trade there is now being hampered by difficult market conditions.

The company is to open a handful of new outlets in Spain, where it currently has three small stores.

Earnings per share rose 62 per cent to 3.85p and the interim dividend has been increased to 1.7p. It is payable on February 7.



John Randall puts MFI's success down to consumer confidence and a new format

Tempos, page 24

### Gibbs Mew shares hit by fall in profits

SHARES of Gibbs Mew fell 89p yesterday, to 210p, after the pub operator and brewer disclosed a sharp decline in first-half profits, and gave a warning to investors that second-half profits would also fall short of expectations (Martin Barrow writes).

The company, based in Salisbury, Wiltshire, said that pre-tax profits fell to £960,000 before tax, from £2.52 million, in the 24 weeks to September 14. Earnings fell to 5.25p a share, from 14.39p. The interim dividend is held at 4p a share. Profits were affected by a £470,000 charge against the cost of closing the offices of Centric, a Midlands pub group acquired in 1994, while launching new brands and "containing competitive pressures" also applied the squeeze.

## JIB agrees £300m insurance merger

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

LLOYD THOMPSON and JIB Group, the commercial insurance brokers, have announced plans to merge, forming the third-largest broker in the UK (See Pennington, this page).

The new company, to be known as Jardine Lloyd Thompson Group, will have a market capitalisation of almost £300 million and combined profits of around £38 million. Only Willis Corroon and Sedgwick will be larger.

The City responded positively, and shares in JIB rose 21p, to 130p, while Lloyd Thompson shares rose 12p, to 174p.

Attention also turned to Willis and Sedgwick, with brokers speculating that they might be forced to take defensive action, perhaps in the form of a merger. Shares of Willis rose 4p, to 135p, and Sedgwick by 5p, to 132p.

Speculation also pushed up the price of Commercial Union shares, which was rumoured last week to have considered a deal with BAT Industries.

JIB shareholders will be offered four new Lloyd Thompson shares for every five JIB shares held under the terms of the merger, which is expected to take place in February. Lloyd Thompson shareholders will hold approximately 43 per cent and JIB shareholders approximately 57 per cent of the share capital of the new company.

Lloyd Thompson specialises in the UK, European and Bermudan markets, while JIB operates in 30 countries worldwide. Lloyd Thompson said that it intended to pay a special dividend of 6p net per Lloyd Thompson share, subject to the merger going ahead.

### Newman Tonks rises after offer

RIVAL bidders are circling Newman Tonks, the building materials group, which has already turned down a tentative offer for the company from FKI, the engineering group (Carl Mortished writes).

Shares in Newman Tonks surged from 102p to 129p yesterday as the stock market reacted to news of FKI's approach. FKI approached Newman Tonks last week with indications that it would be prepared to make a cash offer of 134p per share. The Newman

Tonks board believes the indicative price is insufficient but FKI may offer a higher price. At 134p, a bid would value the company at £171 million. Other parties are believed to be interested in the group. Tempos, page 24

### Levitt fails to show for court

A warrant was issued yesterday for the arrest of Roger Levitt, the disgraced former life and pensions salesman, after he failed to attend court to answer a charge of breaking a ban on acting as a director. Mr Levitt, banned for seven years in 1993 after pleading guilty to misleading financial regulators, had been accused of taking on a shadow directorship of International Boxing Corporation (IBC).

### Hemsley ahead

Raphael Zorn Hemsley, the broker, lifted pre-tax profits to £746,208 (£235,000) in the year to September 30. Earnings were 4.1p a share (1.5p). RZH plans to acquire Insurance Analysts, a Lloyd's adviser, in exchange for the issue of 1.7 million ordinary shares, worth around £1.4 million.

### ASW disposal

ASW, the steel stockholding company, is raising £33 million through the sale of AML, its metal recycling operations, to Philip Environmental, the Canadian industrial services company. The sale is subject to shareholder approval.

## Prism Rail in £11m cash call

By MARTIN BARROW

PRISM RAIL, which owns more privatised train franchises than any other company, is raising £11.2 million through a rights issue.

The proceeds will be used to part-fund the £19 million capital requirement laid down by the Office of Passenger Rail Franchising. Prism secured the West Anglia Great Northern (WAGN) franchise this month.

The company is offering five new shares for every 28 held at 330p each. Existing shares fell 5p to 445p yesterday. The shares were issued at 100p this year.

Prism, based in Keighley, West Yorkshire, has won four franchises — WAGN, LTS Rail, South Wales & West Railway (SWW) and Cardiff

Railway Company (CRC) — and is shortlisted for two more, North West Regional Railways and Scotrail.

Yesterday, Prism reported financial results for the 36 weeks to August 17, showing a pre-tax loss of £336,000, mainly reflecting the cost of bidding for franchises. The results included 20 weeks of trading at LTS Rail, the first franchise it won, covering the former London, Tilbury & Southern line.

Godfrey Burley, chairman of Prism, said: "Prism already has a substantial and viable business. The board looks forward to the challenge of implementing its business plans for the four franchises which it has been awarded to date."

### Howden sees order intake increase 17%

HOWDEN GROUP, the engineer, enjoyed a 17 per cent rise in its order intake, to £284 million, in the first half after a dramatic pick-up in the second quarter offset a slow start to the year (Martin Barrow writes).

However, pre-tax profits were little changed, at £111 million, in the half to October 31, against £111 million previously, and earnings per share fell to 2.4p, from 2.6p, reflecting an increase in minority interests. The interim dividend rises by 5 per cent, to 1p.

Operating profits fell to £12.4 million, from £13.4 million, in spite of a £330,000 contribution from acquisitions. The decline was partly offset by a fall in interest charges to £1.37 million, from £2.44 million. The strong pound cut first-half profits by £600,000. Howden said it would continue to inhibit profits growth in the short term.

### Bizarre twist to options dealing mystery

## Elusive Booth returns cash

BRITON Mark Booth, the alleged insider dealer who made a £82 million (£1 million) profit from options dealing ahead of KPN's £82 billion bid for TNT, took an unexpected twist yesterday when it emerged Mr Booth had asked his broker to give the money to the investors from whom he acquired the stock (Rachel Bridge writes).

Mr Booth, who went missing when the Australian Securities Commission (ASC) launched an investigation into his transaction in September, sent an unmarked fax to Ord Minnett, his brokers, at the weekend with his request.

A spokeswoman for the ASC, which has spent the past two months trying to track down Mr Booth, said: "It is bizarre. He has kissed all the money goodbye, including his initial investment. We still don't know whether he has done anything wrong. We would love to talk to him."

Mr Booth invested £90,000 in options two weeks before KPN's surprise bid for TNT was announced, ordering the options by telephone and paying with untraceable bank cheques. The only communication from him until now had been a fax sent to his brokers, instructing them what to do with the proceeds.

The profits were frozen in a cash management account while the ASC searched for Mr Booth — believed to be an alias — and will now be distributed to the previous owners of the options.

The ASC said it will continue to search for Booth until it goes back to court to resolve the matter in February. Chris Gorman, managing director of Ord Minnett, said: "As far as we're concerned the matter is largely closed. We have no way of contacting Mr Booth and we don't expect to hear from Mr Booth again."

May we take this opportunity to tell our friends that, this year, we are not sending Christmas cards. Instead, we're making donations to several local children's charities and hospices.

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# Anglian Water Plc wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

May we take this opportunity to tell our friends that, this year, we are not sending Christmas cards. Instead, we're making donations to several local children's charities and hospices.







# THE TIMES CITY DIARY

## Hunting for words at MFI

A FIRST for Derek Hunt, MFI's flamboyant chairman, who was unusually lost for words at yesterday's interim results meeting.

Asked for his predictions on the future of the housing market, Hunt replied rather early: "If I was as good at predicting things as you think I am, then surely I would be a millionaire." A voice in the crowd piped up: "But you are a millionaire."

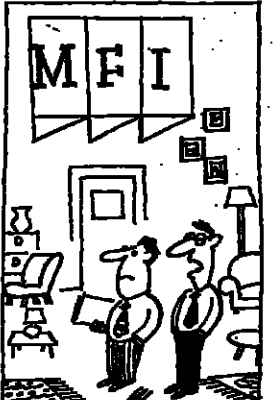
For once, Hunt looked crestfallen.

## Silent night

POOR Stephen Davidson, the acting chief executive of TeleWest, the largest cable company, had hoped to learn in November whether he would be confirmed as full-time chief executive, replacing Alan Michels. But the TeleWest board could not make up its mind and begged for more time: it would let him know by the end of the year. It is still too early, however, to wish him a Merry Christmas. Davidson has just learned that the TeleWest board will now make its decision on January 23. So much for happy holidays.

## Herd laughing

CONGRATULATIONS to Andrew Herd and Barry Leighton who were yesterday appointed directors at Soci t  G n rale. Previously at Paribas and Morgan Grenfell, Herd will specialise in international mergers and acquisitions in the financial institutions sector. When he left his first post at Price Waterhouse, senior partner Ian Brindle, remarked that Herd was the only person who made him laugh in the morning. Yes, but how?



"We could make more by letting it fully furnished"

## Bosses' faith

ALMOST 86 per cent of executive directors who run UK-listed companies have sufficient faith in the business to retain a large chunk of their original holdings, buy shares or take up more via option schemes, according to a survey commissioned by Price Waterhouse. The bad news is that around 16 per cent have no stake in the companies that they manage. Gary Astworth, the founding chairman of Abacus Recruitment, is out in the lead with a 90.9 per cent stake, the biggest block of share capital owned by any one director. Also up there is Kim Tan, with a 79.9 per cent stake in KS Biomedix Holdings, and Russell Nathan, with an 87.1 per cent holding in Romtec, the IT provider.

## Inside story

A NEW YEAR and a new start for Duncan Hopper, the controversial managing director of Legal & General's healthcare division. Having joined the insurance company when it set up its healthcare arm almost two years ago, Hopper is now on his way out. According to an insider, his departure is the result of a "personality clash" with David Prosser, L&G's chief executive. Maybe this will give Hopper, a short-story writer for *Granta*, the opportunity to develop his bent for writing.

MORAG PRESTON



European Airbuses flying in the livery of USAir. The Boeing merger has considerable implications for the future of the Airbus consortium

# Boeing marriage leaves BAe in need of a 'grand alliance'

The US aviation merger puts immediate pressure on Europe's aerospace industry to effect a strategy that will enable it to continue in competition. Oliver August reports

THE aerospace industry has not been hit by an alliance quite like this for a while. Boeing, the world's number one, is taking McDonnell Douglas, the number three, to the altar. Together they could have the power to dictate procurement prices to airlines and air forces around the world unless Europe can produce a competitor of equal weight.

Boeing, as the joint company will be known, is emerging as the undisputed top dog in the battle with its rival Lockheed Martin. Anti-trust regulators could still mug the newly-weds en route to the honeymoon but this deal is not highly controversial. Unlike the BA-American Airlines link-up, the companies are bringing complementary talents into the union.

Boeing cornered the civil aviation market without ever really gaining a foothold on the military side, which is where McDonnell Douglas has been dominant throughout the Cold War. Together the two hope to save \$1 billion a year, which looks only mildly impressive compared to Lockheed's aim of saving closer to \$3 billion.

The deal has ruffled a few feathers in the United States where Lockheed is Boeing's main competitor but it has been preparing for such a move with its own acquisition of Martin Marietta, which temporarily put it ahead of Boeing in terms of sales. But it is in Europe, specifically British Aerospace and its European partners, that the long-term impact will really be felt.

Most current BAe projects will be affected by the Boeing deal and every BAe division will need to review its strategic plans. Just when it seemed to be drawing level, Europe's aerospace industry has to play catch-up again. The fact that Airbus matched Boeing's orders in 1994 no longer matters.

But Sir Richard Evans, chief executive of BAe, will not have been completely surprised by the new situation. Much to his credit, BAe has been advocating for years that European aerospace and defence companies need to consolidate to survive. His message will now be heard louder and clearer than before.

The primary reason for consolidation is the ending of the Cold War. Defence budgets around the world have been squeezed to harvest a peace dividend. This was especially true in America, where a political sea change has been effected by the loss of lucrative defence contracts.

The cost of modern aircraft is another factor. Whether in military or civilian aviation, rising standards have only been achieved by increasing costs. With every new generation, the bills are marked up. Today the development, let alone the production, of aircraft is so expensive that costs must be spread across borders. Taxpayers are no longer

prepared to fund the duplication of research and production facilities for the privilege of putting the national flag on the finished product.

Where does this leave BAe? The company faces three strategic options. First, it could try to join the American bandwagon and build one or more transatlantic alliances. BAe would by no means be entering new ground here. McDonnell Douglas, Boeing's bride, used to be BAe's running mate. Together the two made the Harrier jump-jet a world-wide success.

But recently the relationship has lost its way. Last month, their bid to build the Joint Strike Fighter, the navy fighter jet for the next century, was thrown out by the Pentagon before the tendering had started. While Lockheed and Boeing were given more than \$500 million each to develop prototypes, BAe and McDonnell Douglas were left to offer their expertise to those two. Now that Boeing has found a partner, Lockheed may try

even harder to get BAe on board.

However, this could only work as a one-off. BAe should not enter a transatlantic partnership because it would end up as the junior partner irrespective of who it picks. Even were it to team up with a smaller US company, American secrecy laws are such that the US company would ultimately be in the driving seat.

Nevertheless, being in the driving seat is what BAe has shown itself to be very good at. Its biggest order this year, the Nimrod maritime aircraft, is a case in point. BAe acts as primary contractor, passing workshops to subcontractors. The new BAe has been purpose-built for such projects by Sir Richard.

If a US link-up is out, could this be the time to revive Lord Weinstock's old dream of merging BAe and GEC? The arguments against this are still the same. Creating "national champions" is a dangerous game to play. Such industrial giants become so

important to the national economy that future political decisions get deadlocked. BAe has discarded a GEC alliance for good in favour of seeking stronger European ties. It is down this road that BAe and its potential partners on the Continent will be pushed by the Boeing deal.

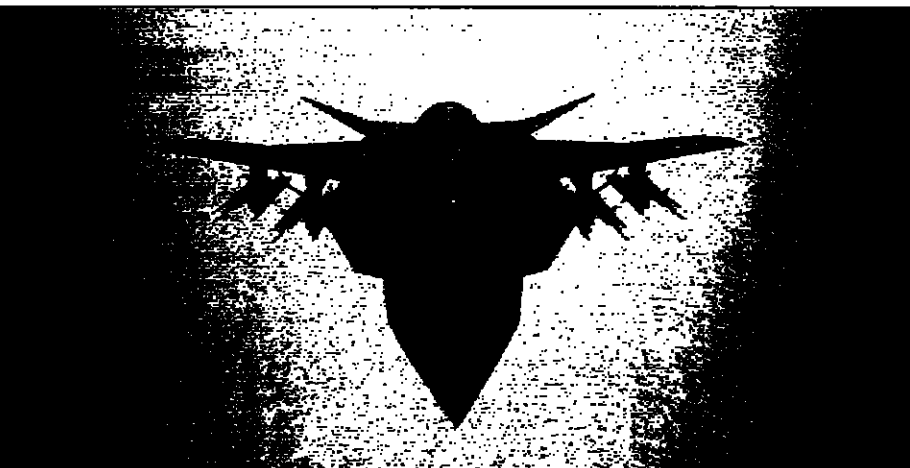
The primary focus here is Airbus. The four-nation joint venture is scheduled to become a listed company before the end of the decade. Other projects include the Eurofighter, the Eurocopter and the Future Large Aircraft, developed by Airbus's military wing. One thing that all European initiatives seem to have in common, in spite of the occasional success story, is their propensity to lose momentum.

The decision to float Airbus was announced with high-octane fanfares last summer. But the French are already dragging their feet. They insist that control over manufacturing should remain with national head offices. No doubt their concerns have some justification but to follow Boeing, Europe will have to make bold leaps — something that it has failed to do with the Eurofighter, and other high-profile projects.

BAe's joint venture with Matra, the French missile company, took three years to negotiate. Consolidation at this pace would result in Boeing wiping out Europe's defence and aerospace sector before the first Eurofighter has been delivered.

BAe, which was the industry's sick man only five years ago, could survive a European collapse. It has built an impressive order book thanks to its sales efforts in the Middle and Far East. It is on the Continent that the Boeing announcement should have the loudest reverberations.

The deal could finally push forward the much-mooted "grand alliance". In such a move BAe would merge with Dasa of Germany and Aerospatiale and Dassault of France. Financial difficulties at Dasa and political objections in France have been a spanner in the works. But the news from America could just sweep aside the barriers to a merger in Europe.



The proposed Joint Strike Fighter, a failed BAe project with McDonnell Douglas

## Eric Reguly on Hollinger's surprise newspaper sale

# Media 'gem' loses its lustre

ONE of the longest media battles came to a surprise ending yesterday when Hollinger International, the newspaper group controlled by Conrad Black, sold its 25 per cent stake in John Fairfax Holdings to Brierley Investments of New Zealand for A\$544 million (\$260 million).

The move caught the newspaper industry off guard because Hollinger had considered Fairfax, publisher of *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *Melbourne Age*, both among the most profitable dailies in the world, a gem. Furthermore, the buyer is not known for its media investments. Brierley has non-control holdings around the world, ranging from 46 per cent of Thistle Hotels in Britain to half of Sky City, a casino in Auckland.

Mr Black, Hollinger's chairman, said that he simply lost patience with the Australian Government and its media ownership restrictions, which prevented Hollinger from raising its stake beyond 25 per cent. Mr Black said: "It was clear to us that there was no way forward. We gave it five years and we did everything possible to get a control position."

Hollinger, whose flagship papers are *The Daily Telegraph* and its Sunday sister, acquired a stake in Fairfax in 1991 as part of the Towering consortium, which paid A\$1.45 billion for the ailing publisher and set out to reverse its fortunes.

Two years later, Hollinger, convinced that the Fairfax turnaround was in place, raised its Fairfax ownership to 25 per cent. But the real challenge was convincing Paul Keating, then Labour Prime Minister, to relax the media ownership restric-

tions. The effort became more urgent two years ago when Mr Black found Kerry Packer, Australia's wealthiest businessman, and Rupert Murdoch, chairman and chief executive of The News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*, nipping at his heels. Mr Packer bought a 15 per cent stake in Fairfax while News Corp tucked about 5 per cent into its portfolio. Mr Black doubled his efforts to raise his Fairfax stake to 35 per cent at 25 per cent he was a sitting duck. He said at the time: "The problem is, if there were a takeover offer we'd be vulnerable."

The campaign failed, but Mr Black did not give up hope. In March, Mr Keating lost the election and John Howard, the

Liberal Prime Minister, hinted that the ownership rules would change. In the end, the restrictions remained and Mr Black made good his threat to get out. The effort was not a total loss. He said Hollinger will book a capital gain of about US\$220 million on the Fairfax sale.

Hollinger, an acquisitions machine by nature, will not spend the money immediately. Instead, it will be used to eliminate some Hollinger debt. "We might enjoy having a conservative balance sheet for a while," Mr Black said.

But Hollinger never sits still for long. There is speculation that it would like to expand its small-town newspaper business in the US — it has run out of room in Canada and has shown little interest in buying another national paper in Britain — and may go after the Journal Register chain in the North East. The papers are owned by Warburg Pincus, the investment bank that owns a stake in Channel 5, Britain's new terrestrial broadcaster.

Brierley's plans for Fairfax are not known. Paul Collins, chief executive, said that Brierley "looks forward to being a supportive, long-term shareholder", but observers note that the group makes a living by buying and selling investments. They would not be surprised if Brierley was holding the Fairfax shares for another buyer, who could be Kerry Packer. He is still keen to own Fairfax but cannot go beyond 15 per cent because of his television interests. Mr Packer may be gambling that the Government will change the media ownership rules sooner rather than later. If so, he will know on which door to knock.



Conrad Black: patience exhausted



JANET BUSH

# Talking euro nonsense

THE single currency project has always been a tool to take power over European interest rates out of the hands of meddling politicians. It has always been designedly anti-democratic.

In exchange for giving up economic sovereignty, European leaders were offered a virtuous straitjacket that would drive out the evils of inflation, competitive devaluation and fiscal recklessness. Europe would be forced to seek greater competitiveness in world markets not through beggar-thy-neighbour ill-discipline but through lasting structural change. In the face of opposition from long-cooset electorates, Europe would modernise. A super-European currency may even challenge the dollar's supremacy as the world's reserve currency.

Of course, these economic arguments have always been subsidiary to the political ambitions of France and Germany, still exercised with postwar paranoia. Britain, with its historical and emotional ties with the Commonwealth and America has never felt quite the same way about building a unified Europe. But neither does Britain share the same view of single currency economics. Britain has little interest in competing with the dollar, not least because sterling's value is as much determined by movements in the US currency as economic developments at home or in Europe.

After the Dublin summit, it is clear that the economic arguments for the single currency — credible or not — are fast imploding as France reasserts its national sovereignty. It was determined not to give in to German demands for a Stability Pact that would impose automatic penalties on member states not playing by the fiscal rules. As France wanted, the Dublin compromise leaves elected politicians with the final say on whether a country should be fined or not and by how much.

Fascinatingly, Jacques Chirac has now hinted that politicians should co-ordinate their desires on monetary policy too. Far from crying foul, Alexandre Lamfalussy, head of the European Monetary Institute that will turn into the independent European Central Bank, has admitted that politicians will continue to play a role. Outside control of the ECB would be in complete contradiction of the Maastricht treaty, he said. Dialogue would not. M Lamfalussy said that he could conceive of sudden changes in the financing needs of a large country with unacceptable consequences for others. "To avoid this, there must be ex ante co-ordination of policies. Finance ministers must agree

among themselves, talk among themselves," he said. Unless Germany balks at the whole thing, what is in prospect is a European talking shop, a street market noisy with professional hagglers, an interminable teleconference where executive decisions are held up because satellite reception from Greece is fuzzy and Britain refuses to accept its share of the cost, a monthly monetary meeting between Kenneth Clarke and Eddie George, held nightmarishly in a hall of mirrors.

This is not to say that sovereignty over economic decision-making and democratic accountability are expendable. They are not. But to give away some control, a bit of sovereignty, in exchange for partial monetary discipline from a central bank still subject to ministerial nods and winks seems like a very bad bargain indeed. This new system would make the Brussels bureaucracy, already regarded with such suspicion by European voters, look positively streamlined.

In deciding to join the exchange-rate mechanism, Britain, cowed by decades of bad macroeconomic management, opted for handing over effective control of its monetary policy to the

It is clear that the economic arguments for the single currency are fast imploding

which at least boasted a proven record of success in defending its currency and fighting inflation. The loss of flexibility and control that that experiment entailed still leaves most Britons extremely suspicious of things European. The prospect of economic policy made in Paris is likely to prove positively distasteful.

Of course, there will be optimists returning home from Dublin who will argue that recent deals will rightly reassure their electorates on sovereignty while, as a minimum, ensuring the discipline conferred by an independent European central bank. But why should any of us have confidence in a confusing mish-mash, arrived at because the political aspirations of France and Germany were, at root, incompatible and pushed through because they were too proud to admit it?

Euro-enthusiasts argue that only chaos would ensue if the project is abandoned, that all the fiscal and monetary discipline that striving to meet the Maastricht criteria has enforced would break down. That is to give up entirely on the duty of governments to pursue sensible economic policies. It also ignores the fact that there is no better source of discipline than that of the market. How much swifter and more objective the punishment for economic recklessness imposed by the markets than a Stability Pact subject to political negotiation.

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ابن النجار









**VISUAL ART 1**

**Richard Long's topographical show inaugurates the refurbished Spacex gallery in Exeter**



**VISUAL ART 2**

**... while at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park Phillip King reveals his latest work**

**THE TIMES ARTS**



**VISUAL ART 3**

**At Oxford, Professor Martin Kemp reveals plans to turn the old jail into a visual arts centre**



**VISUAL ART 4**

**Thirties decor revisited: a new exhibition pays homage to the singular designs of Betty Joel**

**VISUAL ART: Richard Cork reviews evocative shows in the West Country and Yorkshire. Plus London exhibitions**

# The Long and winding road

Between the Arncliffe in Bristol and the Tate St Ives, the West Country is poorly supplied with galleries devoted to contemporary art. Even at Exeter, where the admirable Spacex has pursued a lively exhibition policy in city-centre premises, a large-scale refurbishment scheme forced the gallery's closure this year. But now the improved and extended premises have been completed, and their reopening heralds an ambitious new era for this landmark, much-needed institution.

Spacex developed during the late 1970s from a group of artists' studios set up in a three-storey Victorian warehouse. Public exhibitions have been held on the ground floor for 18 years, but the facilities gradually became inadequate. Artists today often require a surprising amount of room to display their work, and galleries increasingly recognise the importance of providing a substantial back-up programme of educational events. So with funds provided by the National Lottery, the Foundation for Sport and the Arts and the Henry Moore Foundation, rebuilding began in 1995.

The outcome fully justifies the money and effort involved. Designed by Nicholas Gilbert Scott, the split-level galleries now provide ample space for even the most complex and demanding installations. In the old courtyard area, where the warehouse abuts the city's medieval and Roman walls, a luminous atrium provides room for workshops and lectures. The office has been banished to the basement, making way for a glazed entrance and reception area, while a new lighting system has transformed the visibility of exhibits throughout the space.

The real test for any gallery centres on its ability to accommodate the art on display. And by choosing Richard Long for the inaugural show, Spacex has scored a triumph. Always supremely sensitive to the character of the places where he works, Long uses these new rooms with aplomb. One gallery is dominated by a vast wall image, vigorously applied by hand. Monumental in itself, and surrounded by flicks, splatters and drips testifying to the vigour of its making, this awesome presence evokes the immensity of the landscape Long explores on his walks.

Traversing the earth's surface throughout the world has provided

Stone clusters are positioned with spare and graceful finality

him with a perpetual stimulus for more than a quarter of a century. For the Spacex show, though, he took the apt decision to concentrate on an area of special, local significance. Born in Bristol and still living near the city today, he discovered Dartmoor on childhood visits to his grandparents. The bareness of the moor ignited his imagination, introducing him to a primordial world where only the most elemental of sculptural forms withstand exposure.

Since 1969 Long has returned there regularly. As if in tribute to an area that played such a formative role in the development of his art, he has produced a substantial number of Dartmoor-inspired works. Once, during a two-day walk, he laid out a stone circle descended directly from the earliest

distress or macabre humour. At once playful and anguished, they marked a disturbing departure.

Now, however, King has altered again. As an exhibition of new work at Yorkshire Sculpture Park reveals, he has returned to more abstract forms without yielding the ability to surprise. For this is a show of ceramic vessels, modelled in clay mixed with grog and paper pulp. He thrives on the increasing changeability of materials today, and at the same time finds nourishment in the most ancient traditions.

The springboard for his vessels came from a stay in Japan. He started making small vessels on a potter's wheel, and became fascinated by the products of Jomon, the oldest ceramic culture in the world. But King has no intention of copying Japanese precedents. The vessels in his new exhibition belong firmly within his own imaginative world, and their initial air of serenity soon gives way to unease.

Although the word "vessel" may lead us to expect a consoling wholeness, he ensures that they are riddled with signs of disharmony. Forms often turn out to be shattered, and in *Cup Drift* the tilted central object lies half-buried, like a beaker abandoned in the desert. It may arise from King's recollections of a childhood spent in Tunisia, so these ceramic vessels are in one respect a throwback to King's earliest memories, when he first became aware of the mystery inherent in archaeological remains. But they also chime with his preoccupations in the early 1960s, when he would make a compact cone and then slit or slice it through. In the same spirit, he now ensures that the barrel crowning a vessel called *The Watcher* has been pierced by a triangular hole. The plinth-like form below is gashed, and a curving form leaps like a breaking wave from the shadowy interior. It is a startling eruption, both exuberant and erotic.

Most of the vessels, though, concentrate on a more restrained interplay between swollen volumes and sharp penetrations. In the Cubist-influenced *Eye Vessel*, the ripeness of the body is assaulted by jagged cavities. But two cups are lodged invitingly at the centre of the sculpture, countering the brittle tension elsewhere.

Occasionally, the vessels take on a human identity. *Bodhisattva* suggests, in its rounded contours, a



One of Richard Long's works at Spacex in Exeter recalls the stone circle he laid out on Dartmoor

female figure. But her promise of fulfilment is threatened by the rigid, rectangular structure interrupting the gentle swell of her body. The high biscuit firing King employs instead of conventional glazing gives the vessels a stone finish, as bleached as the moonlit Islamic buildings he remembers

**AROUND THE GALLERIES**

IN THE firmament of modern design, Betty Joel (1894-1985) was a shooting star, tremendously famous for barely ten years and then almost completely forgotten. She was born and brought up in China, where her father, Sir James Siewart-Lockhart, was a diplomat and Colonial Secretary in Hong Kong. In 1921 she married David Joel, a naval commander, whose hobby was carpentry; he made much of the furniture for their first home, she criticised his designs, he challenged her to do better, and she did. In 1923 they set up a small business, and two years later opened a West End shop; in 1926 they were so successful that they built a factory on Kingston Bypass.

Betty was the designer, and among her commissions were interiors for the new Bank of England, the lobby and reading room of the *Daily Express* building in Fleet Street, and offices and libraries for the Shell-Mex building, the Savoy Hotel and many grand private patrons. But in 1937 the Joels' marriage broke up. Betty retired completely, and apparently never had anything more to do with design for the rest of her long life. Her distinctive style is mostly streamlined Modernism in the French model, but produced according to British Arts and Crafts ideals, with here and there a hint of her Chinese childhood peeking through.

There has never been a solo exhibition or a thorough appraisal of her work, until now. The Joel exhibition, which includes Betty's famous circular bed and a veneered office interior reconstructed, is staged in Foulk Lewis's new premises in Kingston Exchange, not far from the Joel factory. *Foulk Lewis, The Kingston Exchange, 29-31 London Road, Kingston-upon-Thames (0181-549 2004), until Jan 31*

IT IS only stating the obvious to categorise Kitty North's paintings as "landscape-based abstractions", but much more difficult to give any adequate idea of the impression they make in the flesh, one is tempted to say, so fresh, edible even, do they appear. This show takes us through the various stages of creation, from the dashing on-the-spot sketches, which stay close to impressionistic representation, through the more finished pastels and small oils, where the documentary is gradually formalised out of the picture, and then to the larger oils, where the original facts of the landscape are buried in a lava-flow of paint. The result of this build-up is a highly tactile surface of delicately calculated colour.

*Swan Mead Gallery, 1-4 Swan Mead, Tower Bridge Road, SE1 (0171-394 0733), until the weekend.*

**JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR**

## Professor plots his prison break-out

Oxford don Martin Kemp tells Isabel Carlisle about his plans for a visual arts centre in the old jail

When Martin Kemp, the new Professor of History of Art at Oxford University, was interviewed for the job, he said he wanted to "take the teaching of visual matters out of the ghettos of the art history department". Few of those who appointed him could have realised how quickly, and how unusually, he would put his ideas into practice.

For the past six months Kemp has been working on a visual arts project centred on the now empty buildings of Oxford Prison. A consortium made up of the developer Jacobs Holdings, the Oxford Museum of Modern Art, the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art, the university's art history department and the County Museum has put a

detailed proposal to Oxford County Council for a new cultural and artistic centre on the site. They are now shortlisted alongside three other proposals: two for hotels, offices and shops combined, and one for an expansion by St Peter's College which abuts the site. All four will be presented to a public meeting at County Hall today. The result should be announced at the end of January.

When Oxford Prison was closed last September the Home Office offered the county council the chance to buy the site back for £9,000 (the amount which the town had

sold it for in the 1870s). Proposals were then invited for the site's development, with the brief to create 20,000 square feet of extra offices for County Hall and to make public access to the rest of the site a priority. Bounded by New Road on one side and Paradise Street on the other, the site contains the mound of Oxford's Anglo-Saxon castle, the medieval St George's Tower and the complex of prison buildings dating from the late 18th century.

There is not much scope for new architecture since many of the existing buildings are listed Grade I. Instead the

excitement comes from the possibility of opening Oxford Castle to the public once more and turning the prison buildings into spaces that both the city and the university can use. For Kemp, it means creating the right setting for his new visual studies course, as well as the chance to link art history to art teaching and to the pioneering work being done by Oxford MOMA in exploring the possibilities of video and film in art.

Plans drawn up for the consortium by the Oxford Architects Partnership give the visual studies centre a separate complex of new



Kemp: "No other centre will have so large a brief"

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FILM

The Hollywood dream is tested by reality, as a young screenwriter pitches her idea to the moguls



MUSIC 1

Maurizio Pollini continues his majestic progress through the Beethoven piano sonatas

THE TIMES ARTS



MUSIC 2

Toscanini's finest hours: the maestro's best recordings are selected in Building a Library



TOMORROW

Raring to be Blanche: Jessica Lange prepares to make her West End stage debut

Ludwig in the round

HARDLY a seat was left unfilled as Maurizio Pollini reached the second stage in his progress through the Beethoven piano sonatas in seven programmes, each of which is being repeated in Paris and Vienna as he goes. His latest instalment comprised no fewer than six sonatas, in which his playing reflected intellectual perception as well as technical brilliance.

He modified the strict chronological sequence to finish

Maurizio Pollini Festival Hall

with a finely judged account of the universally familiar *Pathétique Sonata*, Op 13, not so bold in attack as some have made it but with a degree of inner passion that gave a sense of magnificence to the work at the outset, and then played the famous slow movement with a welcome momentum as well as feeling.

Pollini preceded this with the two sonatas of Op 14, composed at much the same time but published a little later. Here Beethoven is in debt to Mozart for the classical sobriety and social elegance of Op 14 No 1. Rhythmic lilt and disarming sentiment abounded here, and if the Allegretto middle movement was not as fast as Beethoven himself was said to have played it, its simplicity of effect was to be treasured, as was the playful spirit of the finale.

The lighthearted charm Pollini brought to this was redoubled in the second of the sonatas, in C major, where the flowing figuration of the first movement could, at best, be said to anticipate Chopin, and the responsive ebullience of the finger work was pursued throughout the piece, touch and tone in ideal balance.

The programme had begun with the three sonatas of Op 10 from a year or two earlier, when Beethoven for the most part harped back to previous Classical models while filling the outlines with new ideas. Possibly a piano of Beethoven's time would have sounded less bass-heavy than did some of the keyboard writing, but the playing enriched the character of the music without affectation.

NOEL GOODWIN

Go on, make me an offer

Clare Bayley, the winner of *The Times* Screenwriting Competition, travels to Hollywood to sell her ideas



Clare Bayley: "It seems that British screenwriters have a particular prestige in Hollywood at the moment. But I get a variety of responses from the studios. I decide not to pitch my story to anyone"

The story is simple, formulaic even. A young English woman wins a screenwriting competition and is flown over to Hollywood to sell her script. Great idea, but that is not the one I am selling: it is the one I am living.

The film treatment I am selling won the approval of the four eminent British film-makers judging the competition — David Aukin (Channel 4), Mark Shivas (BBC), Norma Heyman (who produced *Dangerous Liaisons* and *The Secret Agent*) and Tim Bevan of Working Title — and I am currently developing the first draft with Zephyr Films in London. It is a thriller set in Finland, its main character is a young Englishwoman on a quest to find her father, and the love interest is an older, gay, alcoholic Finn.

It is not exactly what is known in Hollywood as a "high concept" film. Hostile aliens hovering over the White House, now that is high concept. My screenplay, *Corridors in the Air*, is what is politely called a "high execution" piece — it is not what you say, it is the way that you say it. And so far there are only ten pages of a treatment to judge by. Oh well, the best stories need seemingly insurmountable obstacles before the third-act resolution.

In LA in December it is 70 degrees and sunny, and everything seems possible in these conditions. I check into the swanky Sunset Boulevard hotel just off Sunset Boulevard, where Michael Hutchence is already lunching by the pool. In high spirits I cruise off in my hire car for a meeting at one of Tinseltown's top agencies. Waiting for my appointment, I listen to the receptionist telling her friend that she enjoys working at the agency, but she has got to cut down on her hours because otherwise she will never finish her script. Everyone in Hollywood is at it.

The agent is surprisingly positive about *Corridors*. No doubt he is impressed with my list of meetings, which includes the vice-president of production at Warner's, the director of production at Twentieth Century Fox and Lisa Henson (daughter of Jim of *Muppet* fame), who has just set up a production company under the wing of the Sony Corporation. The agent blinds me with figures. This is a \$25 million movie, he proclaims; he cannot see it being made for less. I nod sagely.

He likes the setting — Helsinki is exotic to an American audience. If somebody signed me up, I would be looking at \$150,000 straight up, with the same again if and when it is made. Considering that as a playwright in London I do not expect more than £5,000 maximum for a play (usually less), \$150,000 seems

rather appealing. But calculate it as a proportion of \$25 million, though, and you start to understand just how this status-obsessed industry rates writers.

The distinguished screenwriter Naomi Foner (*Running on Empty* with River Phoenix, *A Dangerous Woman* with Debra Winger) takes me out to lunch, tells me a joke. "Did you hear the one about the dumb actor?" she says. "He thought he could advance his career by sleeping with the screenwriter." She puts it down to the fact that movies started out silent, and words were only added as an afterthought. John Sayles likens the studios' treatment of writers to football clubs. Once they own the story, they can try any formation they like. If every movie that hit the screens was written by only one person, 80 per cent of

One morning at breakfast, I found myself sitting at the next table to Steven Spielberg, who was being pitched to by a British director. The creator of *ET* (Melissa Mathison wrote the screenplay, but how many people remember that?) was relaxed and easy, and the idea sounded strong, but the Brit was struggling, intimidated no doubt by the rare chance to have Mr S's undivided attention for all of 40 minutes. We Brits are not comfortable reducing complex ideas to a few sentences.

But to pursue our dreams, we all come West. You cannot go any further West than LA, and so the fantasies pile up high and fast. The studio lots are the home of these dreams, and it is thrilling to have meetings there. To get to the executives' offices at Twentieth Century Fox, I walk past graffiti, run-down street scenes where they are shooting *NYPD Blue*. The Sony lot is the old MGM site, and to get to Lisa Henson I walk past the huge old hangars where Judy Garland first sang *Over the Rainbow*, and imagine Humphrey Bogart stubbing out his cigarette on the Tarmac under my feet.

But what is the reality? It seems that British writers have a particular prestige in Hollywood. Hossein Amini, who wrote the screenplay for *Jude*, is considered "hot". Christopher Hampton's name is on everybody's lips, now that his adaptation of Joseph Conrad's *The Secret Agent* is in the cinemas. And of course the *Trainspotting*/Shallow Grave triumvirate of John Hodge, Danny Boyle and Andrew Macdonald are taken very seriously indeed.

It is not just blockbusters being made. The independent film industry is thriving at the moment, even in Hollywood, and various subdivisions of the larger studios are interested in younger, more esoteric and even European talent.

As for me, I get a variety of responses. One exec tells me that I should rework *Corridors* to be able to entice a really big name into the main part — Jodie Foster, say, or Sharon Stone? Another advises me to build up some experience in England before taking on Hollywood. Yet another expertly terminates the meeting within 15 minutes. But overall, the message is positive. "There's no shortage of money, but it's still hard to find talented writers, even in this city," I was told. "Just persist. You'll end up working here." As I wait at LA airport for my plane home, I watch the sun setting over the Pacific and wonder if this could be the start of a beautiful relationship — or if I am just California dreaming.

The agent proclaims that this will make a \$25 million blockbuster — at least?

screenwriters in Hollywood would be out of work.

In fact, it is safer to have a high execution idea than a high concept one. Once the studio has bought the concept, they can get any old hack in to write it, but a high execution writer cannot be separated from his or her high execution idea. The problem is that Hollywood does not deal in verbal treatments, it deals in verbal pitches, as immortalised in *The Player*. Writers practise their pitches for a couple of months before a meeting with a studio exec. They practise on all their friends, their family, their colleagues, even the waiters in the diners (who are all screenwriters anyway), and hone them according to the response they get. "If you can't enthuse me with an idea in a couple of sentences, how am I going to sell it to the American public?" one exec said to me.

I have decided not to pitch my story to anyone. Having won the competition, I am in the enviable position that they have all read my treatment. So I shall make contacts, get feedback and then send them the highly executed screenplay when it is written. I have witnessed a few pitches, and know that I could not do *Corridors* any justice.

CLASSICAL CHOICE  
A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

A TOSCANINI SURVEY  
Reviewed by Robert Philip

Although Arturo Toscanini ended his conducting career more than 40 years ago, there are more than 100 of his recordings still available. Most of them are in RCA's *Toscanini Collection*, and the great majority of these are from the 1940s and early 1950s, with the NBC Symphony Orchestra. But a number of other recordings, many of them live, are available on other labels.

There are three areas of repertoire for which he was particularly noted: Beethoven, French music, and his first love, Italian opera. Toscanini had a reputation in Beethoven of supplying only what was written. This was not literally true, but he does have a very direct, vigorous approach to tempo and rhythm which works best in those symphonies in which Beethoven is himself at his most direct — Nos 3, 5, and 7.

The finest performance of the *Eroica*, with an intense funeral march, is from his 1939 cycle (RCA GD 60269). His 1952 recording of No 5 is very satisfying (RCA GD 60255), but there is a slower, equally good, performance from 1933. This is in a three-disc set of recordings from Toscanini's years with the New York Philharmonic (Pearl GEMMCD5 9373).

There are specific composers who benefit from Toscanini's kind of intensity. One of them is César Franck, whose symphony receives a very urgent performance (Dell'Arte CD DA 9021). His recordings of Debussy with the NBC Orchestra can seem rather too clear and clinical, but with the Philadelphia Orchestra in 1941 *Iberia* and *La Mer* are wonderfully sensuous and atmospheric (RCA GD 60311). And with the same orchestra he gives a passionate performance of Tchaikovsky's *Pathétique Symphony* (RCA GD 60312).

But it is in Italian opera that Toscanini excels, notably Verdi's *Falstaff*, in which he is alert to every detail (RCA GD 60251). Best of all are two operas with which he was particularly associated: Verdi's *Otello*, in which he played the cello (RCA GD 60302), and Puccini's *La Bohème*, whose premiere he conducted under the supervision of the composer in 1896 (RCA GD 60288 E18.99).

I can think of no finer Christmas present in the opera's centenary year than this set, conducted by the 79-year-old Toscanini in 1946.

CHRISTMAS SHOWS: Jolly Vivian Ellis revival; two famous tales reworked

Old-fashioned orphan values

Vivian Ellis is the kind of show you would expect to find in the attic, sandwiched between an old copy of *Peter Pan* and Arthur Ransome's *Swallows and Amazons*. Dusted down and lovingly resurrected by Dan

Listen to the Wind  
King's Head, NI

Crawford, this quaint 42-year-old fantasy will always smell of mothballs, however many new songs Ellis might have composed for this production. Having come to live with their grandmother, three orphans — the mischievous Jeremy and Harriet, and their slightly stuck-up cousin Emma — join forces when adventure beckons in the shape of a magic music box. "You know, Emma, you're really not a bad sort," pronounces Ben McCosker's Jeremy after the children cleverly and skilfully sing of their

BOTH *The Wizard of Oz* and *Peter Pan* are derived from books, although *The Wizard* (Polka Theatre, Wimbledon) comes to us by way of the MGM film which added the conservative philosophy that East, West, the old backyard's best. Polka's lively production is by Roman Stefanski, who played the Scarecrow here four years ago. The action moves swiftly forward, the familiar songs are pleasingly sung, and details are imaginative, funny or both. I liked the use of Remembrance Day poppies to provide the pattern on Dorothy's curtains, and the image of the house caught up in the cyclone — a model whirling at the end of a pole with the lights low — is excellent.

Muppet-like puppets bobbing about in the scenery make the Munchkin scene, often an embarrassment, an amusing preliminary to the Oz adventures, and the



Paula Wilcox and Michael Gwyngell in *Listen to the Wind*

differences in *When I Grow Up*. "Well, I'm trying to be," says Vicky Taylor's Emma. The arrival of Cameron Blakey's deliciously malevolent accountant, Pearson, threatening Gran with penury and the children with the workhouse, raises the melodramatic stakes. With the help of a friendly but haphazard

Special, affecting

stage reveals an unexpected depth as the lines of cornfield, fruit trees and emerald-green gates successively slide sideways. Louise Bolton is an attractive heroine, friendly but never cute, and her good companions are genial company. When the bucket of water is emptied over Olivia Carruthers, the Wicked Witch of the West, she sinks into the floor. Delight (and amazement) from the packed audience.

Out at Bagnor the Watermill has no facilities for lifting actors off beds and

In a second half stuffed with 14 songs, it is inevitable that the comic numbers prove the most effective scene-stealers. Blakey's dyspeptic Black Thunder Cloud naturally leads the way with his wonderfully tilted lightning bolt song, *Crash, Bang, Pop!* Meanwhile, Paula Wilcox's drah governess, Miss Lush, is comically transformed into an East End mermaid with "fabulous gills". To her falls the responsibility of rescuing the children, but not before we get several rattle-raising renditions of *I Used to Rock*.

Ultimately, *Listen to the Wind* is always going to be more remarkable for the gusto with which it is performed than the originality of its plot or songs. Accompanied by Michael Lavine on the piano, the latter are, however, delivered with a heart and humour that should see Crawford's show comfortably through the new year.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

sending them flying through windows. Since the one thing that children know about *Peter Pan* is that he flies, it was disappointing that the video insert Dilys Hamlett wanted to use in her production failed to work at the performance I saw. Samantha Seager's Peter wears a reversed baseball cap, which would have given J.M. Barrie an attack of the vapours, but it's modern boyish after all. Still, it hardly chimes with the parental prayer, famously Edwardian, uttered before the flight on the ship: "We hope our sons will die like English gentlemen!" This is a production for the youngest children, who singled out for praise, as do I, Christopher Holt's dandy wish, as Hook, that he could fly, and his tippytoe attempts to do so.

JEREMY KINGSTON

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# LAW

● NEXT WEEK: A LOOK BACK AT 1996

## Give charities a chance

Restrictions on charities need reviewing.  
**Alison Dunn**  
explains why

The Christmas season traditionally raises the profile of charities in the public arena, from the sale of charity Christmas cards to carol concerts and to more specific seasonal fund-raising appeals.

But the activities of charities are not confined to Christmas, nor to doing out advent alms. Many charities are keen to sustain their profile in the public arena throughout the year, and to seek actively — through political channels — to tackle the cause of their beneficiaries' needs.

But to what extent can charities legally become political lobbyists, pursuing political activities? The situation is unclear, as was recently highlighted when the Prime Minister expressed concern over the involvement of charities in Real World, a coalition of aid, environmental and social justice groups.

In a letter to Save the Children, John Major accused the fund of signing up to a "largely political statement of objectives and policy proposals". His comments were prompted by Real World's Action Programme for Government, which advocates a £1 billion annual programme of public spending on housing, community projects and overseas aid, an "integrated transport programme", green energy and environmental policies, and a Bill of Rights.

But both Chris Smith, for Labour and Paddy Ashdown, for the Liberal Democrats, have welcomed the coalition agenda; and the Charity Commissioners have declared themselves satisfied that the charity members of the coalition have not overstepped the boundaries.

This focus on the legality of charities pursuing political objectives highlights the need for clarification in charity law, especially at a time of both regulation of the voluntary sector and pre-election political manoeuvring.

Under the law, charities are prohibited from engaging primarily in a political purpose. The rationale for this prohibition is that a political purpose fails to comply with the requirement of public benefit. The prohibition has some cogent reasons for denying charities the opportunity to take a primary role in the



Private giving to make up shortfalls: is there a danger that charities will find their role too proscribed?

political arena, including the fact that the law ensures donor trust and prevents extreme political groups from gaining legitimacy under the guise of charitable status. It also prevents generous tax advantages being used in questionable political campaigns.

But even if political aims are not being recognised as charitable purposes, charities are nevertheless permitted to undertake a limited degree of political activity. Under the present law, charities may not be political organisations, nor show outright support for a particular political party, but they may nonetheless be involved in political activities where such activities are ancillary to and in furtherance of the charity's overall charitable purpose.

The caveat clearly leaves room for charities to manoeuvre within the political arena and enables them to bring their experience of the practical consequences of government policy to bear on the democratic process. But the caveat also leaves room for widespread uncertainty over

the boundary of an ancillary political activity. Confusion is compounded by the fact that case law is vague as to acceptable and unacceptable conduct by charities. The Charity Commission has gone some way to rectify this lack of clarity by issuing guidelines on the involvement of charities in the political sphere. These guidelines, although not law in themselves, provide solid markers for trustees concerned to stay within the parameters of the law. The guidelines cover a range of situations straddling the sphere of political activity and political campaigning, and provide advice on influencing public opinion, supporting or opposing legislation, commenting on public issues and outlining the penalties for unacceptable conduct by a charity.

The guidelines are valuable as indicators of acceptable conduct. But they do not remedy the underlying, and undermining, uncertainty of charity law. In a practical context, it remains difficult to distinguish between a political purpose and a political activity ancillary to a charitable purpose.

Even the Charity Commission acknowledges that "the dividing line between proper debate in the public arena and improper political activity is a difficult one to judge". That charities remain uncertain is evident from the recent *Report of the Commission on the Future of the Voluntary Sector*. This report admitted that the extent to which charities may contribute to the political arena had been "a frequent issue in the evidence submitted to the Commission".

This lack of clarity in the law is potentially harmful to the wider role that charities play in society. Certainly, explicit rules regarding acceptable political activities in guidelines such as those published by the Charity Commission, or via legislation, would be resisted by many.

A 1989 White Paper opposed such a recommendation because legislation would "have the disadvantage of laying down inflexible rules instead of allowing the law to develop in the light of particular cases" (para 2.44). This is a valid point. But equally valid is the fact that charities have

the ability to assess directly the effectiveness of current Government policy or legislation on important issues such as poverty, education and health.

Yet in the climate of uncertainty which presently exists in charity law as to acceptable behaviour, the threat of penalties for unlawful political activity will tend to stifle participation in the political arena. Ultimately, this precludes the law's developing in a positive way, and may confine charities to a seasonal role.

● The author is lecturer in law, Newcastle Law School, University of Newcastle Upon Tyne.

6 Legislation might lay down inflexible rules?

## An inspector calls

Sir Edward Coke wrote in his *Institutes of the Laws of England* in 1628 that "a man's house is his castle". Exceptions authorised by Parliament in recent decades have left the castle far from impregnable to officials. But our legal system has required necessary safeguards to protect privacy. It has shared the emotion expressed by Lord Chief Justice Pratt in 1763: "to enter a man's house by virtue of a nameless warrant in order to procure evidence is worse than the Spanish Inquisition". Clause 69 of the Police Bill, now being considered by Parliament, is a threat to the principles of our unwritten constitution.

If enacted, it would confer extensive powers on the police to bug, enter and search premises. Entry on, or interference with, property or with wireless telegraphy would be lawful if authorised by a Chief Constable (or other relevant person) who thinks it of substantial value in the prevention or detection of serious crime, and if the action achieves what cannot reasonably be done by other means.

"Serious crime" is very broadly defined by Clause 69 to mean any crime involving the use of violence, or resulting in substantial financial gain, or conduct by a large number of people in pursuit of a common purpose, or an offence for which a person would be sent to prison for three years or more. It is therefore particularly important to ensure that there are proper safeguards to protect individual rights. The committee stage debate in the House of Lords at the end of last month shows that there are two fundamental objections to the drafting of Clause 89 which the Government needs to address.

The first concern is that the intrusive action on private property does not need to be authorised by a judge, but can be decided upon by the police alone. As Lord Browne-Wilkinson pointed out during the debate, until now "the only right enjoyed by the State to invade property is under the warrant of a court" (with the exception of action by the security services). In other Commonwealth countries, a prior judicial warrant is recognised to be an indispensable safeguard of individual rights and a necessary check on abuse of power.

The Government's explanation for adopting a different approach in the Police Bill is that this is "peculiarly an operational matter", and that to involve the judiciary "would be perceived to be a threat to the traditional impartiality of judges, placing them too firmly in the law-enforcement camp".

This will surprise judges and magistrates, who already have responsibility for granting,

or refusing, search warrants, and who frequently take decisions relating to police conduct, such as deciding on the admissibility of evidence, without anyone seriously suggesting that this undermines their independence. Indeed, a primary function of an impartial judiciary is to ensure that broad powers which impinge on fundamental liberties are not abused, however "operational" they may be. The second defect in Clause 89 is that it recognises no exception for legal professional privilege. It is a basic principle of English law that people should be able to consult their lawyers in confidence, knowing that what they say will not be disclosed without their consent.

As Lord Taylor of Gosforth explained in a House of Lords judgment in 1995, this is "a fundamental condition on which the administration of justice as a whole rests". If people fear that their conversations may be bugged by the police, they are not going to tell the whole story, and so they are not going to get proper advice, when they visit their solicitor's office or their barrister's chambers.

The Government has two unconvincing reasons for refusing to include an exception in Clause 89 for lawyers' premises. First, it says that this "would alert criminals to consult there and there alone for the sole purpose of furthering their illegal activities and frustrating the purpose of the Bill". The short answer is that there is no professional privilege if there is a conspiracy between lawyer and client to do more than give and receive legal advice. Secondly, the Government says that Chief Constables can be trusted to use their powers wisely. But if Parliament does not intend to authorise objectionable conduct, it should say so, in order to prevent future abuse of power.

To combat serious crime, the police may well need new powers. But such powers must be subject to necessary safeguards. If Clause 89 were to be enacted in its current form, the absence of judicial control and the frustration of professional privilege would lead to inevitable condemnation by the European Court of Human Rights.

All judges should make plain to the Government that they reject the suggestion that their impartiality would be threatened if prior judicial authorisation were required. And all barristers and solicitors should express their disgust at the suggestion that Parliament may authorise the bugging of their premises while they are giving legal advice to clients.

● The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



COUNSEL

DAVID PANNICK QC

## Mandelson surprised

THE controversial MP, Peter Mandelson, the guest speaker at the Society of Labour Lawyers annual general meeting last week, was taken aback by the warm welcome from the group's chairman, James Goudie, QC. "I must say that that is the most neutral introduction I have had for a very long time," Labour's campaign co-ordinator quipped.

Before long, he was on more familiar ground, when he was forced to defend Jack Straw against complaints that the Shadow Home Secretary was concentrating his resources on being tough on crime, at the expense of Tony Blair's pledge "to be tough on the causes of crime".

### Video request

THE Bar Council is to issue new guidelines to barristers on the measures they should take to ensure any child video evidence they are holding is locked away. The move follows an approach by the CPS, which asked the Bar Council to introduce new rules to protect such videos from getting in the wrong hands.

There is concern that evi-

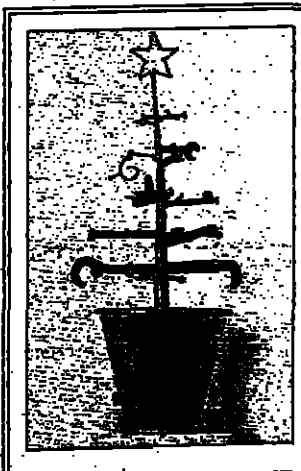
dence in child abuse cases is being circulated within prisons, although the Criminal Bar Association has emphasised that there is no evidence that barristers have been involved in breaches of security.

### More than equal

MANY PEOPLE have been impressed by the Bar Council's drive to stamp out discrimination at the Bar, represented by an equality code issued to chambers earlier this year. Now there are signs that

it is moving on to the offensive by encouraging elements of positive discrimination.

Evidence comes from December's *Bar News*, the Bar Council's bulletin, in an item urging unsuccessful applicants for Assistant Record-keepers to be patient if they want to find out why they have been rejected. The item adds: "Their current exercise is so woman-intensive, the Lord Chancellor's department is not going to have the human resources to deal with the unsuccessful until the new year."



### The art of Christmas

COLLYER-BRISTOW has commissioned a young contemporary artist to produce an alternative Christmas tree once again. The tree, by Mick Kirby Geddes, a Yorkshire sculptor, is made from welded scrap metal and is on display at the law firm's high-quality art gallery at its Holborn premises.

### Editor quits

AFTER five years as Editor of *Solicitors Journal*, where she rose to the position of publishing director at *FT Law & Tax*, Marie Staunton is returning to the voluntary sector to take a position with Unicef.

Chris Stibbs, *FT Law & Tax*'s managing director, says: "Marie has played an integral part in our development over the past five years and will be missed by her colleagues."

● JUDGES are working even harder than everybody thought. Several circuit judges have pointed out that they do not sit 200 days a year. They have a duty to sit for no fewer than 210 days — which in practice, they say, means many more.

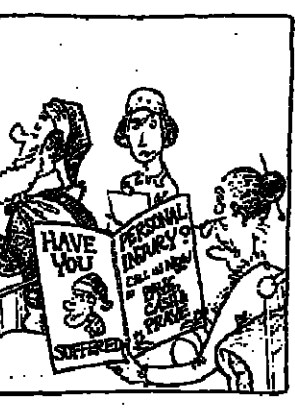
### Mears News

APART FROM producing a succession of pithy media fact sheets criticising the policies of Tony Gilling, the Law Society President, Martin Mears, Mr Gilling's controversial predecessor, has lately been adopting a relatively low profile. Behind the scenes, however, he has been busy putting together his own national news magazine, to be published soon.

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- (for the CAO) a sound knowledge of and enthusiasm for criminal law

The positions are offered initially on fixed term contracts of two or three years, with the possibility of extension or permanence. Secondments or loans would be considered.

Starting salary is £26,355 plus a recruitment and retention allowance of £1,776 although more might be available for the right candidate.

For an information pack please call our recruitment line on 0171 210 1303 during office hours before 24 December 1996. Application forms and recruitment information are also available in large print and on cassette.

The Lord Chancellor's Department is committed to equality of opportunity in employment for all who are eligible, on the basis of ability, qualifications, and fitness for work. Applications are invited from all qualified individuals irrespective of race, gender, marital status, disability or sexual orientation.

















## Times writers give their Christmas selections of the best in sporting literature in 1996

### Goalkeepers take their chance in the spotlight

GHOSTED autobiographies were once the staple dross of sports publishing. "I take 25 days to write a book," one ghost proclaimed proudly. "Ten days taping and then a chapter a day for 14 days." It showed.

Nowadays, football's ghosts are more upmarket. This season's two heavyweight autobiographies, by Kenny Dalglish and Jack Charlton, are ghosted by, respectively, Henry Winter, of *The Daily Telegraph*, and Peter Byrne, of *The Irish Times*, a whimsical stylist.

Yet both have the main problem of ghosts, to retain the flavour of the man. Perhaps surprisingly, Byrne, an Irishman, makes the better fist of it, capturing Charlton's trenchant style. Winter went to school and played football in Scotland, but even that proved little help in recapturing Dalglish's more staccato one-liners on the page.

Between them, though, Dalglish and Charlton have been at the centre of football in the past 30 years and their tales

Fortunately, the eccentric selections in the *Dream Team* series never have to play, but they make great interviews, particularly Jim White's *Always in the Running*, on Manchester United. White is a good interviewer and a beguiling writer, but what can you do with someone who selects Willie Morgan as a wing back and says that the manager who gave Neil Ruddock an England cap is a great judge of a player?

Jeremy Novick, the author of *Winning Their Spurs* in the same series, would never make that mistake about Terry Venables. His book, with its preponderance of early Eighties players, might be better titled *The Nearly Team*, as opposed to Alex Fynn's tome, *Dream On*, on Tottenham last season. Informative, but I preferred the story of football on the breadline, Derrick Allsop's tale of Rochdale's season, *Kicking in the Wind*.

However, for Tottenham supporters, there is outstanding nostalgia, the story of perhaps the greatest ever English club side, Danny Blanchflower's double-winners. Of the other excellent offerings, *Warrior Wanderers*, the story of the Bolton team that joined up en masse and fought the war (1939-45 that is) together, and *Bogota Bandit*, the story of Charlie Mitten's trip to play in Colombia, also tap into football's new and delightful nostalgia market.

In the end, the book of the year is Nick Hazlewood's study of a strange breed, the goalkeeper. It is thin on the greats, but, from nightmares to betting scams, from Willie Foulke to René Higuita, it is riveting reading.

Autobiographies apart, football publishing is thriving. This year, there is perhaps no "great book", such as *Football Against the Enemy*, but there is a wealth of good ones. Managers, chairmen and goalkeepers get a book apiece, of varying quality. The one on chairmen, *Soccer Czars*, talks to the first XI, except Martin Edwards, of Manchester United, and Sir John Hall, of Newcastle United, and gets some fascinating material, but Jason Tomas is too soft on the raging egos on view; George Silk, a psychologist, also has some interesting interviews, but he does not get to Alex Ferguson, Dalglish, George Graham, Kevin Keegan or Roy Evans, which undermines his book, *I Think I'll Manage*.



Dalglish: heavyweight

□ *In the Way - Goalkeepers: A Breed Apart*, by Nick Hazlewood (Mainstream, £14.99).

□ *Bogota Bandit - The Outlaw Life of Charlie Mitten: Manchester United's Penalty King*, by Richard Adamson (Mainstream, £14.99).

□ *Warrior Wanderers - A Football Team at War*, by Tim Purcell and Mike Gething (Mainstream, £14.99).

□ *The Double*, by Ken Ferris (Two Heads Publishing, £9.99).

□ *Kicking in the Wind*, by Derrick Allsop (Headline, £14.99).

□ *Jack Charlton: The autobiography*, with Peter Byrne (Partridge Press, £16.99).

□ *Dalglish: My Autobiography*, with Henry Winter (Hodder & Stoughton, £16.99).

□ *Soccer Czars*, by Jason Tomas (Mainstream, £14.99).

□ *I Think I'll Manage*, by George Silk (Headline, £15.99).

□ *Dream On*, by Alex Fynn and H. Davidson (Simon & Schuster, £14.99).

□ *Always in the Running* (Dream Team series), by Jim White (Mainstream, £14.99).

□ *Winning their Spurs* (Dream Team series), by Jeremy Novick (Mainstream, £14.99).

PETER BALL



Seles tells of her depression and recurring nightmares as she fought her way back to the top after being stabbed

### Serving aces en route to a fortune

DURING the festive season, all thoughts of sport and fitness are usually put firmly to one side, but in the annual crop of tennis books, there is enough to keep even the most devout couch potato in touch with the game, even if picking up a racket and playing seems out of the question.

For those whose playing days are a long-distant memory, there is *David Lloyd: How to Succeed in Business While Really Trying*. Now there are people who love Lloyd and people who loathe him, but none can get away from the fact that he is an inveterate tennis enthusiast and workaholic.

The book covers Lloyd's rise from promising junior to reasonable player to multi-millionaire. Written by Richard Evans, it describes how Lloyd built up his empire of tennis clubs from scratch and eventually sold them to Whitbread for a fortune. In between, it gives the Lloyd view of

business — and how to make it big — of tennis and of life in general. It is worth the read. The British Davis Cup captain — and a chap who owns three Ferraris — is not in the habit of pulling his punches.

Monica Seles also has her own view of the world. Up until 1993, that world consisted of doing everything in her power to be the best tennis player alive. Then, in Hamburg, Günther Parche stopped her in her tracks, stabbing her in the back during a quarter-final match, and consigned her to more than two years in the wilderness as she struggled against the injury, depression and recurring nightmares.

*Monica: From Fear to Victory*, written with Nancy Ann Richardson, is the account of how Seles came back from that day in Hamburg. It is, at times, a

remarkably self-indulgent tome, but does at least explain why it took Seles so long to come to terms with what had happened and how that battle still affects her.

*The Official Wimbledon Annual 1996* also has mention of Seles. This day-by-day record of the championships is written

by John Parsons with pictures from some of the best tennis photographers on the circuit. It is a valuable addition to any tennis buff's shelves.

In the same vein, *Slam!* compiled by Eugene L. Scott, the editor of *Tennis Week*, hopes to provide the same sort of record for all four grand slam events. The book gives an overview of the four big tournaments of the year. It is available at specialist tennis bookshops.

Much as it galls a journalist to say it, a picture can say a

thousand words and for any tennis enthusiast *Visions of Tennis* is a great present.

□ *David Lloyd: How to Succeed in Business While Really Trying*, by Richard Evans (Bloomsbury, £17.99).

□ *Monica: From Fear to Victory*, Monica Seles with Nancy Ann Richardson (Harper Collins, £14.99).

□ *The Official Wimbledon Annual 1996*, by John Parsons (Hazelton, £19.99).

□ *Slam!* compiled by Eugene L. Scott (available from The Tennis Bookshop, West Gate, Moyles Court, Nr Ringwood, Hants, 01425 480518, £35 plus postage and packing).

□ *Visions of Tennis*, produced by Allsport (Quiller Press, £16.95).

ALIX RAMSAY

### No passes in volume on specialist knowledge

WHAT a pity that television's *Mastermind* series ends next year and no further applicants will be considered. *Cycling: Facts and Feats* would have been an ideal primer for anyone seeking high points in the specialist subject category.

Jeremy Evans has researched the subject well, laying down a solid foundation in the opening section with a mix of information about the evolution of the bicycle from its beginnings in 1861 and, seven years later, cycle racing, to the present day.

Brevity is the keynote of Evans's style throughout, using a multitude of four or five-liners to present a fascinating history of the fastest, the longest, the highest and other categories.

Some achievements recorded might be considered freakish or unnecessary (in May 1990, a Peter Rosendahl rode a unicycle backwards for 74.75 kilometres in 9hr 25min), but the compiler has done to his bow than lightweight information.

The world's three leading Tours — France, Italy and Spain — are well-documented, and there are welcome potted biographies of The Greats, ranging from Marshall "Major" Taylor (born 1878) to the present world champion and record-holder from Great Britain, Chris Boardman (born 1968).

Also highly readable is William Fotheringham's *Cycle Racing: How to Train, Race and Win*. The author's canvas is broad and will appeal to all levels of achievement.

□ *Cycling: Facts and Feats*, by Jeremy Evans (Guinness Publishing, £13.99).

□ *Cycle Racing: How to Train, Race and Win*, by William Fotheringham (A & C Black, £13.99).

PETER BRYAN

### Watered-down account of poolside dramas

IF YOU want to seek out a sporting fairy-tale, dip into *Gold*, the biography of Michelle Smith — but go cautiously. This is the story of the 26-year-old who made giant strides in Atlanta to become a triple Olympic champion and unleash a tide of jubilation in Ireland that not even Jack Charlton and his lads could have hoped for.

Written by Cathal Dervan, a journalist, in collaboration with Smith, the book offers a romantic view of its subject and her immense progress after her coaching was taken over by the man she was to marry, Eric de Bruin. The Dutch discus thrower became her mentor after the 1992 Olympic Games and was suspended from athletics for four years in 1993 after he tested positive for steroids.

Smith reassesses her oft-quoted view that her success is solely the result of hard work. The book does not deal very much with the drugs controversy in Atlanta or offer evidence to support De

Bruin's contention that he was an innocent victim of drugs testing.

The book alleges that American journalists were alone in questioning how Smith had achieved a progression like no other in the history of her sport. In truth, such issues were raised by swimmers, coaches, medical

experts and journalists from dozens of nations and had been raised long before Atlanta. The question of whether Smith received medical help was put to her forcibly in Atlanta, even though she has never tested positive for drugs.

Dervan's account is watered-down and sickly sweet.

□ *Gold — a triple champion's story*, Michelle Smith, with Cathal Dervan (Mainstream Publishing Company, £14.99).

CRAIG LORD

### Leap into dark side of search for gold

FOR MOST Americans, the defining moment of the Atlanta Olympic Games was not the 200 metres world record of Michael Johnson nor the fourth long jump gold medal for Carl Lewis. It was the instant when Bela Karolyi carried Kerri Strug into the gymnastics hall to receive her gold medal. She had defied a badly damaged ankle to land cleanly from a vault and help the United States to victory in the women's team event.

Although it was almost midnight, the occasion was seen by 99 million American television viewers. Strug immediately became a national celebrity, the latest in a line of competitors to achieve that distinction — many of whom have been coached by Karolyi.

His methods and those of many successful coaches, both in gymnastics and ice skating, are questioned in the book, *Little Girls in Pretty Boxes*. This is the other side of the story of Olympic glory, revealing what has happened to those American gymnasts who have died or been grievously harmed, either emotionally or physically, in their desire for success.

The thesis of Joan Ryan, the author, is clear. "It is about the

elite child athlete and the American obsession with winning that has produced a training environment wherein results are bought at any cost, no matter how devastating."

What makes gymnastics and ice skating so disturbing is that the competitors are immature girls. The stories of eating disorders and injuries make harrowing reading. As Ryan says: "There is no place in elite women's gymnastics for women." The sport is dominated by tiny teenagers and, until the world governing body imposes a lower weight limit, it will have to bear some responsibility for the harm that is being done.

On a more cheering note, *Empire Games*, subtitled *The British Invention of 20th Century Sport*, illuminates how this country spread so many sports to other countries. The author is engagingly committed in detail, but detached in judgment, pointing out how the ethos of the Empire often held back the development of sport in the home country.

Trevor Leggett's eminence in judo is unquestioned and he has always stressed the importance of its mental training as much as its physical aspects. His collection of stories in the Zen tradition should be read by everyone involved in the Japanese martial arts.

□ *Little Girls in Pretty Boxes*, by Joan Ryan (The Women's Press, £8.99).

□ *Empire Games*, by Roger Hutchinson (Mainstream Publishing, £13.99).

□ *The Dragon and Other Judo Stories in the Zen Tradition*, compiled by Trevor Leggett (Ippon Books, £5.99).

JOHN GOODBODY

### The day Todd was taken on terror ride

IT IS a relief to learn that even Mark Todd, the most gifted three-day-event rider the sport has seen, has experienced the terror of being run away with on a horse. It happened when the dual Olympic gold-medal winner was asked to event a friend's Grade A showjumper. As soon as they set out on the cross country, the horse took off. "Nothing has been more frightening," Todd said.

A more typical picture of Todd — sitting in perfect balance as his horse soars over a huge log — adorns the cover of *One-Day Eventing*, a definitive guide to the sport, written by Todd with Genevieve Murphy. The book, well-illustrated with pictures by Kit Houghton of the author and his wife, Carolyn, gives advice on all aspects of eventing from buying the right horse to preparations for his first event.

Keeping in a rhythm is, we are told, the key to successful cross-country riding. Todd, whose international career began in 1980 when he won Badminton at his first attempt, thinks many riders get in "too much of a state" about not being able to see a stride. "It would be far more profitable for them to concentrate on keeping a rhythm to the fence and avoid interfering with the horse when he jumps it."

Todd, who appears to see a stride when a field's distance from the fence, also emphasises the importance of flat-work. When he started in the sport in his native New Zealand, he "put up" with the dressage in order to get on with the exciting part of riding across country. Yet he changed his mind when he realised he would only be successful if he improved his dressage. Now getting a horse to go

correctly on the flat is as natural to him as winning.

Any equestrian household would benefit from Judith Draper's invaluable reference manual, *The Book of Horses and Horse Care*. Aspects of stable management, from shoeing and clipping to exercise and grooming, are described in detail.

□ *One-Day Eventing*, by Mark Todd with Genevieve Murphy (Aurum Press, £15.99).

□ *The Book of Horses and Horse Care*, by Judith Draper (Lorenz Books, £16.95).

□ *A Modern Horse Herbal*, by Hilary Page Self (Kenilworth Press, £16.95).

JENNY MACARTHUR

### Inside story of first hostilities in saga of sporting conflict

THIS has been a frustrating year for rugby union in many ways, therefore it seems appropriate to select as by far the best book the sport can offer a title that is not available in Britain: however, there is still time for HarperSports to put Peter FitzSimons's *The Rugby War* into the market here, particularly as the saga of which he writes may yet have some distance to run.

FitzSimons, the former Australia lock who is now a journalist with the *Sydney Morning Herald*, offers the inside story on how rugby's amateur hours suddenly toppled like a deck of cards during 1995. More particularly, he examines the threat posed to the game's establishment by the self-styled World Rugby Corporation (WRC), a concept involving a worldwide series of rugby franchises developed by Ross Turnbull and like-minded business colleagues in Australia.

British readers may find FitzSimons's matzy style grates somewhat, but they will acknowledge that it lends immediacy to the events of the past 18 months. The book is a revelation because, before this decade, rugby attracted only limited interest from big business; as this past year has proved, business is now inclined to take a very close

interest in the game, whether it be Sir John Hall in Newcastle or Rupert Murdoch's associates in both hemispheres. *The Rugby War* may prove to be only the first chapter of what is to come.

One of the constant complaints made of rugby union is that it is inaccessible to the casual viewer because of the complexity of its laws. Two books this year offer assistance. Ed Morrison, who

refereed the World Cup final last year, in conversation with an established author in Derek Robinson, has produced an enjoyable ramble through the rulebook in *Rugby — A Referee's Guide*.

It is a "what if" book, in that Robinson paints scenarios and Morrison offers the official — and sometimes unofficial — response. As an adjunct, Mike Mortimer, the Leicester forward who became a referee, has penned *Rugby Law Explained*, a series of articles which have appeared in match programmes at Welford Road.

Autobiographies are thinner on the ground this year — Scott Hastings, that ebullient centre, is one of the few, while Jonathan Davies is as swift off the mark with *Code Breaker* as he was on

the break in both rugby codes. But there is a topicality, as well as sadness, about the publication of *The History of the British Lions* by Clem Thomas, the former Wales flanker and rugby correspondent of *The Observer* who died during the autumn.

Thomas, a great enthusiast for the Lions concept, would have been happy to leave this as his valedictory, yet the future of British Isles tours remains in doubt: unless the home unions place their belief in the idea — rather than concentrating their efforts on exclusively national tours — it may not survive long.

□ *The Rugby War*, by Peter FitzSimons (HarperSports).

□ *Rugby — A Referee's Guide*, by Ed Morrison and Derek Robinson (Collins Willow, £5.99).

□ *Rugby Law Explained*, by Mike Mortimer (Kaifos Press, £4.95).

□ *Great Scott*, by Scott Hastings with Derek Douglas (Mainstream Publishing, £14.99).

□ *Code Breaker*, by Jonathan Davies with Peter Corrigan (Bloomsbury, £16.99).

□ *The History of the British Lions*, by Clem Thomas (Mainstream Publishing, £15.99).

DAVID HANDS

### Squaring up to big issue in the ring

THE question of the validity of boxing as a sport is never far from our minds and comes sharply into focus every time a tragedy happens in the ring. At such times, most of us shake our heads, have recriminations, applaud new safety measures and carry on as we are. But a growing number of people are wondering whether it does credit to a civilized society to allow such a brutal sport to flourish.

So we must thank Hugh McIlvanney for tackling the subject head-on in his book, *McIlvanney on Boxing*. It is a brilliant essay that marshals the arguments of both sides in the boxing debate.

McIlvanney needs no introduction because he is well-known as the finest writer in the world on boxing and so what he says here is worth the consideration of the British Medical Association (BMA) and the boxing lobby.

In his book, which is a collection of his articles in the *Observer* and *The Sunday Times* from 1966 to the present day, he gives a warning against the sloganising of the BMA and the smugness of those who profit from the game.

Most readers of *The Observer* and *The Sunday Times* will be familiar with the articles, but

they are worth reading again. The book is in two parts. The first covers the golden years of boxing in the 1970s, the second, from the 1980s to the present. The outstanding piece is still McIlvanney's account of the events that led to the tragedy of Johnny Owen in Los Angeles.

If McIlvanney's book is for general consumption, the re-issue of the Sugar Ray Robinson story by Dave Anderson will be

welcomed by boxing fans, particularly the older ones.

Robinson held the attention of fans for a quarter of a century from 1940. He had 202 contests, winning 109 of them on knockouts.

It is refreshing to find in these days of braggaris how much he respected his opponents. He said of his defeat by Randolph Turpin: "I was beaten by a better man."

□ *McIlvanney on Boxing*, by Hugh McIlvanney (Mainstream Publishing, £15.99).

□ *Sugar Ray. The Sugar Ray Robinson Story*, by Sugar Ray Robinson with Dave Anderson (Robson Books Ltd, £10.99).

SRICKUMAR SEN



# Hill shines brightest in galaxy of stars

John Inverdale was right — it was just what Sunday was made for. Unless, that is, you happened to be a half-Welsh Chelsea supporter with an inexplicable interest in rowing. But enough about me.

Inverdale's perfect Sunday was BBC all the way. It started with live coverage of Wales versus South Africa in *Rugby Special*, continued with the new season of *Ski Sunday* and then, after a suitable break for refreshment, got really serious with *Sports Review* of the Year 1996.

My more pragmatic version was to stay at Cardiff Arms Park until the score got embarrassing, then switch to Sunderland against Chelsea on Sky... until the score got embarrassing, and then have a bit of a rest.

Having caught enough of Eurosport's on-off coverage from Val d'Isère over the weekend to know that the

downhill had not gone according to plan (or indeed at all), Hazel Irvine and Julian Tun could wait for another day. As a result, I had slightly longer to wait than Inverdale for *Sports Review* to come along.

Time to reflect on the myriad injustices that lay ahead. Given the BBC's recent track record with viewers' polls, my hot favourite for Sports Personality of the Year was Tony Blair, with Patricia Routledge coming in a close second for her performance in *Hetty Wainthropp Investigates*. The British sporting public — to nobody's great surprise — agreed to differ, according to Darnley Hill pole position.

Hill figured third in my personal top three television highlights of the year — all of which, for some reason, took place in the middle of the night. First was the night Michael Johnson ran fast all the way in the 200 metres at Atlanta on BBC1; second was



MATTHEW BOND  
TV ACTION REPLAY

Evander Holyfield turning pay-as-you-view into pay-as-you-cheer on Sky and third was the night when Hill finally let the nation go back to bed smiling, which I watched on both BBC1 and Eurosport. All three of them were in the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, with the two Americans being joined by the Canadian sprinter, Donovan Bailey, as the overseas guests of honour. The BBC had clearly pulled out all the stops.

Some good sport must have taken place during daytime this year, but — apart from Redgrave and Pinsent's victory seen through binoculars

on a hospitality television at Lord's — it all seemed to have become something of a blur. Never mind, Des Lynam, Steve Rider, Sue Barker and a host of BBC videotape editors were about to put that right. They did.

Cleverly, they began with Barry Davies's stirring reprise of Euro 96 and after that... well, the evening went gently downhill, in an enjoyable sort of way. It even survived Frank Skinner and David Baddiel joining The Lightning Seeds and assorted schoolchildren to give us a live rendition of *Football's Coming Home*. As I

embarrassment, I wondered what Evander Holyfield was making of it.

Neither Laura Davies nor Nick Faldo were in the audience, so there went their outside chances of winning. Tim Henman was, but him winning would have been as big a surprise as rediscovering that Richard Krajicek had won Wimbledon. Was Barker sure about that?

Having hit another well-engineered high with the presentation of a cake to birthday boy Frankie Dettori, the evening ground almost to a halt as we returned to the medal desert that was the Atlanta Olympic Games. It was rescued by a wonderful double-handed interview with Johnson and Bailey. Roger Black joined them later and yes, Des, it was the nearest he had got to Michael all year.

Shortly afterwards, it was the nearest Frank Bruno got to a genuine heavyweight

champion all year, when he presented a taciturn joint overseas personality of the year to Holyfield and Johnson. Bruno would later pick up his own lifetime achievement award, together with a signed football for his surprise success in "the funny", which this year was a penalty shoot-out featuring Peter Shilton in goal and Jimmy Hill wearing an unwise referee's strip. According to Lynam, this part of the programme is a favourite with television critics. Can't think why.

Jonathan Edwards did the honours with the envelopes, but the suspense died when he announced that the runner-up trophy had gone to a four-times Olympic gold medal-winner. As I said, not a good day for half-Welsh, Chelsea supporters with an inexplicable interest in rowing...

□ This review appeared in later editions yesterday.

## From Russia with warmth

Something to Write Home About. Radio 4, 10.00am.

One thing to write home about is the wide scope of this one-man view of urban Russia today: what is in the shops, how cold it can be, how snow is carted away, what is on television, how thick the walls are in new housing estates, how much a wool suit costs, and why Murphy's beer has to be readily available. The other thing to write home about is the author's perspective, the programme's presenter, who went to Novgorod to monitor how European Union cash is being spent to help Russians to improve their central heating. A heating engineer himself, and a magazine contributor, he has a trained nose for sniffing out facts and an invigorating way of reporting them. In short, he is quite a find.

Femmes de Siècle. Radio 3, 9.25pm.

What sort of being will Millennium Woman be? There are pointers in Elaine Showalter's five-part series which began last night. Is mental illness still a female malady? Is it even a feminist malady? *Femmes de Siècle* considers these and related topics in an ideal place — Freud's old consulting room in Hampstead. Flashbacks to the 1890s demonstrate how the melodramatic hysteria of women performers to the theatre was repressed to gain social and political rights. As for 1990s women writers, how many, I wonder, would fit one literary critic's verdict on the nature of women's fiction 100 years ago: "erotic, neurotic, and tommy-rotic".

Peter Daville

## John Hopkins on the continued domination of Austrian skiers in Val d'Isère

# Knauss makes a giant impression

WHATEVER the discipline, the one certainty in the Alps here in France these past couple of days has been that the Austrians will dominate it and leave the Swiss, French and Italians bawling in their ski tracks. Austrians took four of the first five places in the super giant slalom race here yesterday, having swept the first four places in the men's downhill the previous day. In skiing, the more things change, the more they stay the same.

Hans Knauss, a 25-year-old Austrian, was the winner with his team-mate and countryman, Günther Mader, in second place. Steve Locher, of Switzerland, prevented a clean sweep by the Austrians, for whom Patrick Ortlieb was fourth and Christian Mayer fifth.

Knauss is considered a good technical skier who has his eye on winning the World Cup super giant slalom competition. "Anything else is extra," Knauss said.

As he had won in Valloire last year, this was his second victory in the event on French snow. He completed the 2.1-kilometre course in 1min 23.26sec, beating Mader by 0.03sec.

"The secret is judging the risks," Graham Bell, the leading Great Britain skier, said after he had patently failed to do that by crashing out as early as the tenth turn.

"You've got to risk it in super-G, because there is no training run. You only have one go at it so you've got to go for it if you want to go quickly, but the difficulty is making sure you don't take too great a risk."

For the second day running, the weather smiled on this



Knauss confirms the credibility of his challenge with his super giant slalom victory. Photograph: Alessandro Trovati

Alpine village, which contains sufficient old architecture to offset the shock of the new, something that the nearby resort of Tignes has failed to do.

And for the second successive day, Luc Alphard, the engaging Frenchman who seems able to talk in almost any European language, was

well adrift of the winner's podium. This was less of a surprise in the super giant slalom than in the downhill, his speciality.

"I feel better today than yesterday," Alphard, 31, said after coming eighth yesterday to follow sixth place in the downhill on Sunday. "I am not unhappy with my perfor-

mance. There was a lot of pressure on me here. I am looking forward to Val Gardena this weekend, where I will not be under as much pressure. If I can win just one race, then I would like it to be in Sestriere." He was referring to the downhill in the world championships in Italy in February.

"I made the classic mistakes of a downhill competing in super-G. It is no surprise that the first three names up there are super-G specialists," he said, gesticulating at the results board.

As Alphard spoke, Ortlieb, his rival and a man he says he dislikes, had just skied and, with a time of 1min 23.69sec

compared with Alphard's 1min 23.98sec, had moved into third place. An edge entered Alphard's voice. "I really hope someone comes and pips Ortlieb from third place," he said. When Locher's time flashed up on the board and revealed that he had done just that, Alphard thrust his arm into the air and said "yes" vehemently.

So the World Cup circus moves from France to Italy, to Madonna di Campiglio today, when Alberto Tomba makes his entrance for the season in a

VAL D'ISÈRE: Super giant slalom: 1, H Knauss (Austria) 1min 23.26sec; 2, G Mader (Austria) 1:23.29; 3, S Locher (Switzerland) 1:23.45; 4, P Ortlieb (Austria) 1:23.69; 5, C Mayer (Austria) 1:23.78; 6, P Runzeder (Austria) 1:23.81; 7, A Schuster (Norway) 1:23.85; 8, L Alphard (Fr) 1:23.98; 9, P Werh (Austria) 1:23.99; 10, H Thiele (Austria) 1:24.12. World Cup standings (after seven events): 1, Knauss 29pts; 2, J Aarnoud (Nor) 23; 3, Werh 22; 4, M von Grünig (Switz) 20; 5, Mayer 19.

STEINBOGT SPRINGS, Colorado: World Cup Nordic combined, sprint: 1, Norway's B. T. Norheim 1:3. Austria's I. Nations Cup (after three events): 1, Norway 1,280pts; 2, Finland 752; 3, Austria 551.

slalom race, and then to Val Gardena for two downhill. So far, there seems no sign of the Austrian dominance being broken.

"Austria is the land of alpine sports," Alphard said. "They have huge resources. Their national team comprises 50 skiers; ours has only 20."

"The Austrians have such a huge set-up," Bell added. "They are always organised, always trained well. They are never under any financial pressure. The only pressure they face is from competing with one another. However, I don't think they will remain this dominant for much longer."

## ATHLETICS

### Medals garnered by rekindled spirits

AFTER she had led the Great Britain women's team to unexpected bronze medals in the European cross-country championships in Charleroi, Belgium, on Sunday, it was put to Hayley Haining that she could surely count herself included for the world championships in March, unless she had a disaster (David Powell writes). "But I am good at disasters," she responded.

Haining, ninth, and Andrea Whitcombe, fifteenth, were the leading two British women home, both having risen from the sporting grave. Haining finished ahead of Paula Radcliffe in the 1991 world junior championships. What might she have achieved by now but for an assortment of injuries since? Radcliffe was not far off

winning an Olympic medal this summer.

In her mid-teens, Haining, now 24, was away from running for several months after being kicked by a horse and, last month, she was the only member of her team to go down with food poisoning on the eve of the Margate cross country. Before Charleroi, she had not competed for Britain for five years. "I just seemed to jump from one injury to another," she said.

Whitcombe won two senior English titles before retiring. "I just got fed up," she said. Then, feeling unfit, she took up recreational jogging. "I just got back into it gradually," she said. "That was three years ago. It has been a gradual improvement since."

## SNOOKER

### Clouds lift as Sullivan reveals his sunny side

SEVEN months ago, Ronnie O'Sullivan was branded the game's latest enfant terrible after assaulting an official at the Embassy world championship (Phil Yates writes). By capturing the German Open title on Sunday, he took a further step along the path to rehabilitation.

O'Sullivan, who defeated Alain Robidoux 9-7 in an entertaining final in Osnabrück, not only collected a first prize of £40,000 but also supplied compelling evidence that he is a reformed character, on and off the table.

Ironically, the first seeds of O'Sullivan's fall from grace at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield in April were sown when he played a number of shots left-handed during a first-

round victory over Robidoux. They sparked a bitter exchange of words in which O'Sullivan's comments were, at best, insensitive. On Sunday, O'Sullivan was clearly determined to bury the hatchet. His handshake was warm, his face showed a genuine desire for reconciliation.

A player fined £20,000 and given a suspended one-year ban for lashing out at the world championship is again displaying the sunny disposition that endeared him to all when he turned professional in the summer of 1992 — and his form has improved along with his demeanour.

FINAL: R O'Sullivan (Eng) 9-7 A Robidoux (Can) 9-7. Frame scores (O'Sullivan first): 72-40, 67-70, 65-65, 59-65, 69-70, 61-65, 113-0, 62-34, 116-5, 62-61, 66-61, 5-75, 71-45, 146-0.

## Answers from page 36

### FLEMENSFIRTH

(b) A term of Old English law, probably meaning the offence of entertaining a banished person, and hence the king's right of exacting a penalty for this offence. The word was probably not understood after the OE period, but was preserved in formal communications of the rights pertaining to the king.

### GROMWELL

(c) The common name for any of the plants of the genus *Lithospermum* (Natural Order *Borraginaceae*), characterised by hard stony seeds, which were formerly much used in medicine. As to the possible origin of the French *grom*, several suggestions have been made. Its derivation from *gromum* (mili) is impossible on account of the early form *gromit*; but the 15th-century variants *grinnit*, *grenit* perhaps exhibit some popular etymological approximation to *grain*.

### FINGAN

(a) Or *fuján*, a small porcelain coffee cup, used in the Levant. From the Arabic and Egyptian words.

(b) A feudal right, payable for the racks or stands on which barrels of wine were placed. English rendering of the Old French *chanter* and *channellage*.

## SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1, Rb3! (threatening 2, Rxf8 mating) 1... Ka7? 2, Rb7+ Ka8? 3, Rb6 is mate; 3, Kf8? and Black has no good defence.

## Excellent, a Hen party.



A perfect combination of smoothness and strength, with a subtle blend of flavours.

A most Gratifying Ale.

Brewed by Morland of Abingdon. Est'd. 1711.



## SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (in)	Conditions	Runs to resort	Weather (Sun)	Last °C snow
AUSTRIA					
Kitzbühel	15	45 fair	varied	fair	sun 2 14/12
	(Upper runs skiing well; possible to ski down to town)				
St Anton	70	220 good	varied	good	sun 2 14/12
	(Great skiing with nearly everything open)				
FRANCE					
Alpe d'Huez	100	260 good	varied	good	fine +1 14/12
	(Excellent skiing conditions everywhere)				
Méribel	90	140 good	varied	good	fine +1 14/12
	(Very good skiing on open pistes)				
La Plagne	100	210 good	varied	good	fine 2 14/12
	(Excellent skiing in all open areas)				
Val Thorens	160	240 good	varied	good	fine 2 14/12
	(Best pre-Christmas conditions for years; great skiing)				
SWITZERLAND					
C Montana	100	170 good	varied	good	sun +2 14/12
	(Excellent skiing on open pistes; 14 of 41 lifts open)				
Mürren	80	120 good	powder	good	fine 2 14/12
	(All lifts now open; excellent skiing)				
Zermatt	75	260 good	powder	good	sun 1 14/12
	(Very good skiing; 55 of 73 lifts open)				

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; an - artificial.

## RADIO 1

7.00am Chris Evans 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa Farnham 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier, includes 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat 7.00 Evening Session, with Jo Whalley and Steve Lamacq 9.00 Cing Film with Mark Karmali and Mary Ann White 10.00 Mark Radcliffe, live from Manchester 12.00 Claire Sturge, includes at 1.15am The Net 4.00 Chris Warren

## RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy, includes Pause for Thought 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 12.00am Radio 2, includes 1.00am-1.15am The 1960s 1.15am-1.30am The 1970s 1.30am-1.45am The 1980s 1.45am-2.00am The 1990s 2.00am-2.15am The 2000s 2.15am-2.30am The 2010s 2.30am-2.45am The 2020s 2.45am-3.00am The 2030s 3.00am-3.15am The 2040s 3.15am-3.30am The 2050s 3.30am-3.45am The 2060s 3.45am-4.00am The 2070s 4.00am-4.15am The 2080s 4.15am-4.30am The 2090s 4.30am-4.45am The 2100s 4.45am-5.00am The 2110s 5.00am-5.15am The 2120s 5.15am-5.30am The 2130s 5.30am-5.45am The 2140s 5.45am-6.00am The 2150s 6.00am-6.15am The 2160s 6.15am-6.30am The 2170s 6.30am-6.45am The 2180s 6.45am-7.00am The 2190s 7.00am-7.15am The 2200s 7.15am-7.30am The 2210s 7.30am-7.45am The 2220s 7.45am-8.00am The 2230s 8.00am-8.15am The 2240s 8.15am-8.30am The 2250s 8.30am-8.45am The 2260s 8.45am-9.00am The 2270s 9.00am-9.15am The 2280s 9.15am-9.30am The 2290s 9.30am-9.45am The 2300s 9.45am-10.00am The 2310s 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## RUGBY UNION 36

Ashton's future  
as coach of  
Bath in doubt

## SPORT

TUESDAY DECEMBER 17 1996

## SPORTS BOOKS 37

Reading into the  
fears that haunt  
Seles's return



## Chaos as Formula One stands accused



Williams on trial

IT HAS been a long time coming but last night Formula One motor racing finally got the bad news it had been dreading. On February 20 next year, barely two weeks before the start of the new season, Frank Williams and five other men will be brought to trial on manslaughter charges arising from the death of Ayrton Senna at Imola in May 1994.

To some, perhaps even some in the Williams team, the news will come as a relief, a preliminary indication that we may be about to find out what really happened in those few seconds before Senna's Williams-Renault hit the wall at the Tamborello corner in the San Marino Grand Prix and his helmet was pierced by a metal suspension rod.

It is better that than his death should be shrouded in rumour and

innuendo for years to come, fertile ground for ever-widening speculation. Patrick Head, the Williams technical director and another of those indicted, has already spoken of his desire to take the stand to disprove the theory that one of the greatest grand prix drivers was killed because of the failure of a weld on his car's steering column.

Last night, though, Formula One was in turmoil, bracing itself for a season of chaos with other teams running scared of appearing at the two Italian races scheduled for next year lest any misfortune should befall their drivers.

Flavio Briatore, the Benetton managing director and one of the most influential men in the sport, has already threatened to withdraw both Jean Alesi and Gerhard Berger from the San Marino Grand Prix on

Charges arising from the death of Ayrton Senna could have considerable impact says Oliver Holt

April 27 and the Italian Grand Prix at Monza on September 7.

"I would not risk bringing my team to a country that can convict you for an accident," Briatore said recently at the Bologna Motor Show. "Fatality is part of the game as well." Briatore, an Italian, also owns the Ligier team, which would put its participation at the events in doubt as well.

There was no comment last night from either Max Mosley, the president of the International Motor Sport Federation (FIA) or Bernie Ecclestone, the president of the Formula One Constructors' Association (FOCA), but Ken Tyrrell, the

veteran team owner, hinted that other teams would be nervous about racing in Italy in the light of last night's developments.

"The fact that this can happen to the Williams team," Tyrrell said, "a professional team where every screw and nut and bolt is secured, a team with a reliability record that is impeccable, raises the question 'what chance is there for the rest of us?' If an accident can happen to them, it can happen to anybody. I have no doubt that the teams will be getting together to decide what action to take. It is a matter for great concern because it could affect motor racing around the world."

The Williams team's lawyer, Roberto Causo, would not confirm whether Williams, Head and Adrian Newey, the chief designer of Senna's car, would appear at the trial which will be held in Imola. A conviction for manslaughter under Italian law, which requires that someone be held responsible for any violent death, carries a maximum prison sentence of five years. Most of those found guilty, though, receive suspended sentences.

The Williams team, who had been expecting the news for the past ten days, released an official statement from its headquarters in Grove, Oxfordshire, regretting the news of the charges. "We do not believe that the charges are well founded," it said, "and intend to do all that is necessary to defend our position."

Federico Bendinelli, an official of

the company that runs the track, Giorgio Foggi, director of the track at the time of the accident, and Roland Brunserade, the director of that season's Formula One races were the other people accused.

The charges have caused consternation throughout the sport because there is no precedent for them. Colin Chapman, the owner of the Lotus team, was pressured by the Italian authorities after the death of his driver, Jochen Rindt, at Monza in 1970. He did not return the following year and Lotus raced under the name WorldWide Racing for that grand prix before things returned to normal.

Some form of compromise may be reached this year, too, of course, but last night the 1997 Formula One season was shrouded under a dark cloud before it had even begun.

## Tour party down to 13 fit players

## England options restricted by injury to Irani

FROM SIMON WILDE IN BULAWAYO

ENGLAND, struggling to maintain morale after a disheartening start to their winter tour, may be choosing from only 13 available players when the first Test match against Zimbabwe begins here tomorrow. Ronnie Irani, the party's one all-rounder, was yesterday taken to hospital in Harare for X-rays on his lower back. If they revealed that damage had been done, he will return home and a replacement will be summoned.

Irani left the field complaining of back pain on the final day of England's match with Matebela last Friday and although he soon returned, he did not add to the 14 balls he had bowled earlier. He underwent fitness tests before the first one-day international on Sunday — which England lost by two wickets — and declared himself able to play, but made little impact on the game.

The England management,

understandably disappointed that Irani said he was 100 per cent fit and then failed to come through the game successfully, made a swift decision to get to the root of the problem. As David Lloyd, the England coach, said: "The issue is clouded by the fact that the injury is to a pivotal player."

Even if the hospital tests gave Irani the all-clear, the news would not remove one of the main weaknesses of this England party, which is that it does not as yet possess an all-rounder worth his place in the side as batsman and bowler. A fully-fit Irani could, in theory, fulfil that role, but in the first three weeks of the tour, he did little in either department.

If Irani returns home, his replacement will come from the A team that completed an outstanding tour of Australia at the weekend and contained three all-rounders — Craig

White, Adam Hoolioake and Mark Ealham. As the most effective bowler of the three, White would be clear favourite to be drafted in, but he could not arrive in time to be considered for the Test match tomorrow.

Irani's injury only highlights the gamble England took in not finding a replacement for Dominic Cork when he withdrew from the tour two days before it started for personal reasons. Lloyd was prepared to concede yesterday that England were a player light for their needs in Zimbabwe, which is perhaps a reflection of the fact that they have found the cricket here more uncompromising than they expected.

To give their side balance for the first Test match, England had already decided to play Alec Stewart as a batsman-wicketkeeper, but Irani could still have featured as one of the seam bowlers, though he has bowled fewer than 40 overs on tour.

His injury may be a legacy of him being obliged to remodel his bowling action two years ago after sustaining serious back damage during his first season with Essex, whom he joined from Lancashire in 1994.

One of the few positive things to come out of the defeat on Sunday was the impressive international debut of Chris Silverwood, who has thus put himself firmly in the frame for the Test match. Silverwood dismissed Grant Flower with the last ball of his first over, Andy Flower in his fifth over and barely bowled a bad ball in ten overs.

"He was asked to bowl line and length and followed his instructions to the letter," Lloyd said yesterday. "He's a no-nonsense cricketer. Off the field, you might think he is just a nice lad, but on it he is aggressive. Under the spotlight and amid all the noise on Sunday, he held up brilliantly."

Praise for Silverwood contrasted starkly with reports of the progress being made by Andy Caddick, who was unexpectedly omitted from the one-day international. "I would like to be impressed," Lloyd said.

Andy Flower, who gave up the captaincy of Zimbabwe earlier this year, has been appointed coach of Oxford University in succession to Les Lenham. Flower has played club and league cricket in England in recent years.



Irani: back problem



Smith launches a model of the all-British entry he will lead in the next Whitbread race

## Britons win backing for crack at the Whitbread

BY EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

AFTER complex, extremely delicate and intensive negotiations lasting three months, the best British prospect for victory in the Whitbread Round the World Race for many years finally emerged from the shadows yesterday.

Lawrie Smith, the British helmsman, is to lead a one-boat campaign sponsored by Silk Cut with an all-British team in a new Bruce Farr design, with enough money to get him to the start line off Southampton next September with a real chance of winning.

Smith's place at the helm of the Swedish EF Education male boat has been taken by the top American skipper, Paul Cayard, who is expected to bring with him up to five key members of his AmericaOne syndicate for the 2000 America's Cup, including John Kostecki.

In the end, a deal that, at various points — including as late as last week — looked like falling apart, has worked out well for all concerned. Magnus Olsson, the operations manager at Team EF, used unprintable language yesterday to describe his initial reaction when he heard Smith might leave, but he is now happy.

"The reason I was angry was because I had built up a good team and then had to start from the beginning again. In the short term, things are not looking so good, but in the long term, it looks pretty good," he said.



Cayard: substitute

No one at EF was prepared to discuss the amount of money the team had received to compensate it for the loss of Smith.

From Smith's point of view, the swap has been completed with just enough time left to get a boat built and complete the necessary trials, though he will continue to benefit from EF's testing programme in the meantime.

Smith now has full control over his campaign and will be able to work with an all-British crew and several of his long-time lieutenants on what he indicated may well be his last crack at the race.

The crew he has chosen so far include Neal McDonald, Adrian Stead, Steve Hayles, Gordon Maguire, Jason Carrington and Russell Pickall, who will be his sail co-ordinator.

The 1997-98 Whitbread looks like being the most exciting so far, with 12 new Whitbread 60s now certain to start and at least three of the old boats from last time joining them.

As Cayard, who has sailed in four America's Cups but never in the Whitbread, put it: "The racing will be much closer and much tighter. It is not one-design, but very close to that."

Challenge positions, page 34

## Rovers' patience rewarded with Eriksson signing

BY PETER BALL

BLACKBURN Rovers' search for a manager has ended virtually where it began: in Italy, but in Genoa rather than Milan. Yesterday, they confirmed that Sven Goran Eriksson will become their manager when his contract with Sampdoria expires in July.

"The game is changing and we decided from the start not to restrict ourselves to English managers," Robert Coar, the Blackburn chairman, said yesterday. "It has been some time since Ray Harford left, but we were determined to make the right appointment."

Initial approaches had been made to Roy Hodgson, of Internazionale, but interest there ended when Hodgson signed a new contract with the Milan club. Blackburn clearly hope that Sampdoria will release Eriksson early, with the club in mid-table in Serie A. The indications yesterday, with Sampdoria refusing to allow Eriksson to fly to England for the press conference or even to allow a satellite television link-up, were that relationships are not warm.

"I can't give any interviews about my next club," Eriksson said in a statement. "I can only comment on the club I am currently employed by."

His input in transfer dealings may not have to wait for his arrival. Tony Parkes, the caretaker-manager, will, however, remain in charge of the

team until Eriksson arrives. He will then revert to the post of assistant manager.

"I'm glad the situation has been sorted out and it is no problem for me to carry on as long as necessary," Parkes said yesterday. His main task will be to ensure that Eriksson still has an FA Carling Premiership club to come to in the summer.

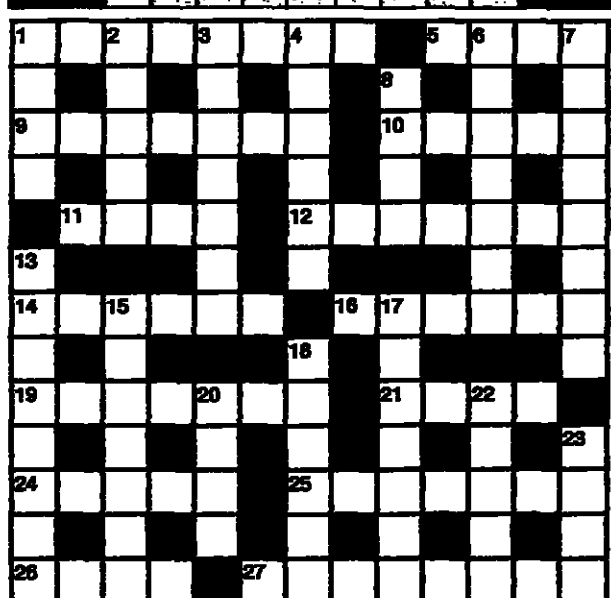
Eriksson, 48, has been charged with a more formidable assignment. "We are confident we have secured the services of a top European coach to underline our ambition to be both a leading club in the Premiership and to compete successfully on a regular basis in European competitions," Coar said.

From his early days with IFK Gothenburg, Eriksson has enjoyed consistent success. Gothenburg won the Uefa Cup and Benfica, under his charge, also reached the final of that competition, while he won league championships in Sweden and Portugal and the Italian Cup with Sampdoria.

Eriksson has signed a three-year contract with Blackburn, at a salary estimated to be not much less than £1 million a year. He can also look forward to having an open cheque-book to recruit players in his rebuilding of a side that has declined badly since winning the championship in 1994-95.

Overseas View, page 36

## TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 967

## ACROSS

- 1 Wave threateningly (8)
- 5 Latest information (4)
- 9 Imply, mean (7)
- 10 Hunting dog (5)
- 11 Curve, twist (4)
- 12 Emergency communication channel (7)
- 14 Six, or Nine, Counties (6)
- 16 Cry (pig); confess (6)
- 19 Wet blanket (7)
- 21 Twelfth of foot (4)
- 24 Additional (5)
- 25 Soothing drug; platitude (7)
- 26 Extinct Mauritian bird (4)
- 27 Of the intellect (8)

## DOWN

- 1 Hard at work (4)
- 2 Corner: old German settler (5)
- 3 Slowly get less (7)
- 4 Long-handled cutter (6)
- 6 Difficult to pin down (7)
- 7 All at once (8)
- 8 Fired gun (4)
- 13 Partition on board (8)
- 15 Acknowledged (officer) (7)
- 17 Cervantes' chivalric Don (7)
- 18 Farwell (3-3)
- 20 Byron's amorous Don (4)
- 22 Old public announcer (5)
- 23 Telephone inventor, his signal (4)

## SOLUTION TO NO 966

- ACROSS: 1 Series 5 Past 8 Fund 9 Fraction 10 Vauxhall 11 Awry 12 Wedged 14 Yellow 16 Tomb 18 Optimist 20 Scrounge 21 View 22 Iris 23 Teeter
- DOWN: 2 Emulate 3 Index 4 Safe and sound 5 Pitfall 6 Scour 7 Harley Street 13 Gibbons 15 Obscene 17 Occur 19 Movie

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TIMES CROSSWORDS: Books R1, R2, R3, R4, R5, R6, R7, R8, R9, R10, R11, R12, R13, R14, R15, R16, R17, R18, R19, R20, R21, R22, R23, R24, R25, R26, R27, R28, R29, R30, R31, R32, R33, R34, R35, R36, R37, R38, R39, R40, R41, R42, R43, R44, R45, R46, R47, R48, R49, R50, R51, R52, R53, R54, R55, R56, R57, R58, R59, R60, R61, R62, R63, R64, R65, R66, R67, R68, R69, R70, R71, R72, R73, R74, R75, R76, R77, R78, R79, R80, R81, R82, R83, R84, R85, R86, R87, R88, R89, R90, R91, R92, R93, R94, R95, R96, R97, R98, R99, R100, R101, R102, R103, R104, R105, R106, R107, R108, R109, R110, R111, R112, R113, R114, R115, R116, R117, R118, R119, R120, R121, R122, R123, R124, R125, R126, R127, R128, R129, R130, R131, R132, R133, R134, R135, R136, R137, R138, R139, R140, R141, R142, R143, R144, R145, R146, R147, R148, R149, R150, R151, R152, R153, R154, R155, R156, R157, R158, R159, R160, R161, R162, R163, R164, R165, R166, R167, R168, R169, R170, R171, R172, R173, R174, R175, R176, R177, R178, R179, R180, 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